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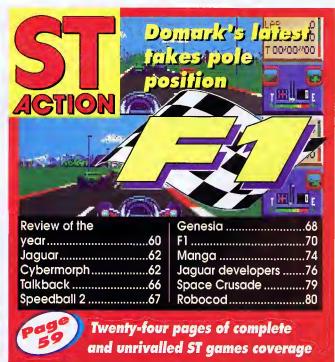


VISA

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A chance for you to pick up copies of the magazine that you missed - and, of course, some great CoverDisk software!

96 Classifieds

More ST-related products in our free advert section. Pick up a bargain!

EDITOR ART EDITORS

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

AD MANAGER AD PRODUCTION MARKETING MANAGER PRODUCTIONMANAGER CIRCULATION DIRECTOR DISTRIBUTION SUBSCRIPTIONS

Simon Lees Barbaro Ne Lucy Oliver Sondra Childs David Wren COMAG (0895) 444055 051-357 2961

Published by Europress Enterprise Ltd.
Eurapa House, Adlington Park,
Mocclesfield SK10 4NP
Tel: 0625 878888 (all departments)
Fax: 0625 850652

CHAIRMAN Derek Meakin MANAGING DIRECTOR Ian Bloomfield

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation

Atari ST User is an independent publication and Atari are not responsible for any of the articles in this issue or for any of the opinions expressed

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Printed in the UK by Carlisle Web Offset, Carlisle, Cumbria

CoverDis



Write programs and documents with Tempus 2, HiSoft's feature-packed text editor worth £40, but given away free on this month's disk

PLUS:

- Load programs quickly using the great GoGoST GEM-based menu svstem
- Albion, a powerful file information utility to replace the ST's Show Info function
- Have some fun playing 3D puzzle Soma and the challenging Naarjek IV
- A colouring book program which allows kids to use the mouse to colour in ten pre-drawn pictures
- Manipulate sound samples in various formats using Sound Lab, a brilliant program for use with ST Replay and DaataSound
- Convert sound files from one format to another with Five to Five

The DISK starts on page 12



World Record

68000 CPU running at 36MHz

Two new Accelerators are now available for the MegaST and ST(FM) computers. Performance and price are sensational. The T28 with a 28MHz clock is 3.5 times faster and the T36 with a 36MHz clock is 4.5 times faster than the original ST's clock. The use of the original 68000 processor guarantees near perfect compatibility. CPU cacheing is switchable for added compatibility with the cartridge port devices. 0TP, Graphics Software and Cubase show a fantastic speed increase. Compared with a standard ST with NVOI and without Bilitter, Gembench gives the following results:

	ST(FM)	T28	T36
CPU	100%	299%	373%
Graphics	100%	949%	1097%
Average	100%	763%	890%
The combination of the T28/T36 and NVOI			
transforms	the humble	ST into	a powerful

graphics workstation - a dream come true for all those who want more speed at an affordable price.

T28 Accelerator, 28MHz, 64kb Cache £189

T28 Accelerator, 28MHz, 64kb Cache £189
T36 Accelerator, 36MHz, 64kb Cache £279
NV01 bought with either £39.95

High Density

elCo doubles Disk space to 1.44Mb!

- ★ Automatic floppy disk detection
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- ★ Software is included. (ACC and CPX)

Kit price still only £79.95 inc VAT

High Res Monitors

The SM14s is a perfect replacement for the Atari SM124/5 monochrome monitors, exceeding the original specifications. The 14" high resolution paperwhite FST gives a perfectly centred, crisp and sharp image without blurring at the edges.

"Essential Buy, 90%"

ST Review, May 93 without audio SM14 £129.95 with audio SM145£149.95



FLY LIKE THE WIND...

NVDI replaces the Atari display routines. Screen updates with NVDI are 3-10 times faster. Works with all TOS versions on all Atari ST, MegaST, TT and for the Falcon.

MultiTOS and SpeedoGDOScompatible.

"Scrolling through a long text file in 1st Word Plus took half the time ... Calamus, Calligrapher and Wordflair also showed a marked improvement ... Compatibility is remarkable and we have yet to find a program that is not compatible with NVDI. ... a must for all ST and Falcon owners"

ST Review Issue 16, August 1993.

NVDI Version 2.5 - £49.95

MiniS

The small award winning SCSI Hard Disk System at an affordable price, for all computers with SCSI connections.

Awarded 92%, "Essential buy"
Atari ST Review Christmas '93



- ★ Quiet fan ★ Dual SCSI port
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KeyClicks

THEIR BACK!!

At long last we have this invaluable keyboard accessory back in stock. The Atarl Keyboard has never been famous for its good feel, but now you can cure this with Keyclicks. These are small rubber "mushrooms" that fit between the keytop and the actuator underneath. They will transform the feel of the keys. Easy 0IY installation... for ST(FM/e), and FALCON 030 computers.

Price: £19.95 for a complete set.

Special Offer:

If purchased with any other product only £15.00

The Falcon Column

Are you planning to purchase a Falcon? How much of your old kit will work on It? Or do you just feel tempted and want to know how much a complete system would cost? For advice and apersonal quote phone:

London: 081-693 3355 or Windsor: 0753 832212

Now in Stock

Falcon030 Starter Pack:

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Cubase Audio for the Falcon 030 is now up and running in the Showroom.

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Windsor Service Centre:

Windsor Business Centre, off Duke Street, Windsor, SL4 1SE. Tel:0753-B1BB16

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Jaguar's eyes on console owners John Butters

SEGA and Nintendo console owners will be the first people targeted for Jaguar when Atari's European marketing campaign kicks off in March.

With console sales now dropping off across the country, Atari consider it important to attract existing games players who may want to upgrade to the world's most advanced games system.

The firm say Jaguar's user benefit will be extremely easy to show, and according to spokesman Peter Walker: "There is simply no comparison when it comes to graphics and sound."

The company have been overwhelmed by reaction to the machine in the United States, where "wild" consumer demand is far greater than the North Carolina production facility can

So far more than 40,000 Jaguars are claimed to have been delivered to end users, and with a national US roll out during the next couple of months, demand is expected to soar.

A small quantity of machines were even shipped into Britain before Christmas, and although no-one at Atari would say exactly how many, one insider described the number as "embarrassingly small".

The source said many companies had taken orders and money from customers but were not supplied with the consoles they expected. There is no confirmed date for the next ship-

Atari, meanwhile, continue to be busy whipping up enthusiasm for the device, and for the first time in three years attended the massive Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Walker explained the main purpose of the visit was for Atari to forge new links with software developers and distributors, as well as previewing software and peripherals.

Among new products shown to visitors were games Alien vs Predator and Tempest 2000 and an Atari-badged CD-ROM drive, which is described by the firm as a "pretty standard" device.



targeted for a better system

Epilepsy report clears video games

PLAYING video games very rarely triggers epileptic seizures in people without a known history of epilepsy.

That's the finding of a Government-funded report just published following a national study led by Dr David Fish of the National Society for Epilepsy.

It reveals that people who suffer seizures for the first time while playing video games are photosensitive - in other words they are susceptible to flashing light.

The report says of the 30,000 Brits who suffer their first seizure each year, 600 are definitely at risk from epilepsy attacks triggered by TV, video games and other light sources.

Up to 150 people each year may have their first seizure brought on by playing a video game, although there is no evidence that photosensitivity can actually be caused by the

Most newly diagnosed photosensitive epileptics are between seven and 19 years old, it adds.

Consumer affairs minister Lord Strathclyde

said: "This report shows that photosensitive epilepsy affects a very small number of people.

"A much smaller number suffer their first seizure while playing video games roughly the same as through watching television.

"People who suffer must always seek medical advice and those with known epilepsy should ask their doctor whether they are at risk from seizures triggered by video games."

Some computer games makers have recently been putting warnings on the outside of their packaging

advising players how to avoid health prob-

The industry watchdog ELSPA's general secretary Roger Bennett said: "There are certain issues that are important regardless of



Games: Government give epilepsy all-clear

whether the player suffers from epilepsy." "Don't sit too close to the monitor, don't play for too long and don't play in the dark."

News briefs

Playing Falcon

FOUR Falcon-specific games will be launched by Atari during the next few weeks, the firm have iust announced.

Among the titles will be leff Minter's Llamazap, Steel Talons, Road Riot 4 Wheel Drive, and Evolution Dino Dudes, Each has a target price of £29.99, but distribution remains to be fixed.

Cubase help

CUBASE users wanting to get more from their software are targeted for Cubose Power Users Guide, a new book from Intrinsic Technology (081-761 0178).

The firm say the £12 book's 127 pages help musicians get more from their sequencer, with the inclusion of techniques and working methods. It also has a section on Cubase Audio for Falcon.

Scots online

GIANT online information service CompuServe have added an Edinburgh node to their network. It can be used at access speeds up to 9,600 baud by dialling 021-557 5888.

Online guide

MODEM manufacturer US Robotics have published a free booklet aimed at stimulating increased use of the range of online information services avail-

The Sportster Guide to On-line Services gives details of the various services which can be accessed using a modem, including several small bulletin boards.

The 40-page guide can be obtained by writing to Sally Roberts, US Robotics, 224 Berwick Avenue, Slough SLI 4QT, or by telephoning 0753 811180.

On sale

WATCH out for the March issue - on sale at a newsagent near you from February 17.

User shows move north

TWO Atari-specific shows held in the Midlands and the north of England recently were the launch pad for several new ST and

products

Both Atari ST User-sponsored events were well attended and gave Atari enthusiasts a chance to see new products and talk to dealers and other visitors.

On show for the first time from Compo Software were ScreenEye - a real time video image processor that works in full colour on the Falcon - Geneva and Musicom II.

HiSoft showed Clarity 16, Colour Master and Harlekin 3 while System Solutions have re-introduced Keyclicks with a new price of £1995

The London-based specialist also showed new multitasking system Mag!x for the first time in Britain at the Northern show - see our exclusive review on page S0.

The shows saw the launch of many other new products including an alternative operating system called SMS2, Chroma 24 and Straight Fax 2

Karl Brandt, managing director of System Solutions said: "I enjoy these shows because they are all Atari users. There's no computer snobbery and they appreciate the equipment."

Other exhibitors included 16/32 Systems,

Warpzone PDL, CGS ComputerBild, Gasteiner, Falcon Fact File, JCA Europe and Titan Designs.

Following the success of these shows, two dates have been added to this year's calendar in Newcastle and Glasgow. Provisional dates are March 19 and 20 respectively.

More new products are planned for the show including the first ever British showing of the Medusa, an Atari computer clone with a 68040 processor running at 66MHz.

It is claimed to operate IS times faster than



Shows: New products and enthusiastic visitors

Forty programs run at once

UP TO 40 programs can run simultaneously on Atari STs using a new operating system developed by Southampton-based company Furst (0489 894674).

Unfortunately, the system - SMS2 - is controlling applications.' not compatible with TOS, meaning Atari when the cartridge is fitted.

But according to Furst, plenty of programs are already available for SMS2, including public domain software, a C compiler and a word processor.

advantages to ST owners. "SMS2 offers a costs £13S.

different form of computing," said Furst boss Graham Goodman

"It's a truly multitasking system that can also be used as a real time system for

Features include a graphical user intersoftware will not run on the computer face, in-built networking, a suite of utilities, and a special system to enable applications to share memory.

It works with all STs, with the number of programs available for multitasking limited only by memory. SMS2 is, The system is claimed to bring several however, incompatible with the Falcon. It

Virgin fund football training

VIRGIN Interactive Entertainment have sponsored a scheme to teach Britain's kids how to become skilful football players just weeks after England failed to qualify for this year's World Cup

The company - publisher of football hit Goal! - handed over a £47,000 cheque recently to the co-ordinator of the Virgin



Virgin: Handing over £47,000 cheque to improve UK football

Games Schools Football Initiative at Arsenal's Highbury ground.

The scheme enables schools to use a Dutch method of coaching called Coerver which uses one ball, one player training instead of the more common 11-players, one ball.

Children of all ages can take part, and after their schools have signed up are asked to find extra sponsorship from friends and family to fund sports equipment needed for the train-

Of the money used to set up the scheme, Virgin and the Government each donated £20,000, and £7,000 came from other sponsors Adidas a football magazine Shoot!

"The sponsorship deal could not have come at a more opportune time following England's failure to qualify for the World Cup," said Virgin's marketing manager Paul

"Not only does the scheme encourage kids to learn individual football skills, but it will also give Virgin Interactive Entertainment direct access to around 25,000 UK schools."

Premier Programs For Your Atari



Inshape

Inshapes begins with the modeller, which has a variety of tools such as spin, extrude, and a template editor. Many built in primitives like cube, sphere, disc, cylinder, and tube are also included. Models can be assembled from component objects using up to 16 layers. Manipulation tools means an object can be moved, rotated, scaled to an accuracy of 0.0001mm. A wide range of materials are provided including metals, stones, plastic, wood, glass and sand. Many textures are available from marble to multi coloured spots. Even features such as bump mapping, image mapping, and waves are possible. Models can be illuminated, positioned and animated in the scene editor which in turn is your 3D world.

"A feature-packed modelling package that deserves to take the market by storm."

David Nilson. ST Review December 1993.

"It's the best there is."

Clive Parker, ST Format February 1994.

DA's Vector and DA's Vector Pro

The essential graphics, animation and presentation tool. DA's vector is a colour vector graphics program for any Atari ST(E)/TT and Falcon computer, with at least 2MB of memory. Unfortunately, we don't have sufficient space on this page to list the 100's of features included, like the tracer, vectorpath editor, 3d extruder, vector morphing, keyframe animator, graph and chart generator, picture converter, colourfade generator, freehand bezier drawing, to name but some of the features that combine to make this program not so much a tool as a fully equipped graphics workshop. And now the best is getting better with DA's Vector Professional's added abilities. Phone for further information, also details on the excellent Tutorial which is now available.

"If we were to pick just one winner, without doubt this would be it." Atari ST User 1993 Awards.



DA's Picture

The brief was simple: "Develop an image retouching program with more power than Retouche Professional and be easy to use." The result "DA's Picture".

DA's Picture is the most recent member to the Digital Arts family of acclaimed products, and a software hardware bundle is available with the Matrix Screeneye Digitiser. DA's Picture Software £149.00 inc. VAT.

Please note that InShape requires a maths co-processor and works with an Atari TT or Falcon, priced at £149.00. DA's Vector is £149.00 and DA's Vector Pro is scheduled to be approx £249.00. Chagall Limited is £149.00. The Tabby Graphics Tablet is £49.95 and DigiTape Lite is on special offer at £99.00 with a copy of this advertisement, until Feb '94. CGS ComputerBild may be contacted on 081 679 7307 for orders and further information, or write to us at: 231 Northborough Road, Norbury, London SW16 4TU.



Hollywood effects to the h

UNTIL recently morphing effects were only possible on multi-million dollar purpose-built computers, but now Morpher brings the latest Hollywood video tricks to all STs and the Falcon.

A special version of the program supports a floating point co-processor, works on both 2D and 3D objects and runs fully under GEM and inside windows.

There is a total of five windows of which only three contain graphics. These are the source graphic window, the target graphic window and the "morphed" window. The remaining two contain the tools and a progress indicator. The Morpher can create animations in up to 99 steps but due to the calculationintensive nature of the processing this might take a very long time to achieve.

A fast machine such as the TT is therefore recommended. Once the images have been saved a separate program called the Player is used to animate them.

Running in up to 2S6 colours, the programs are available from Application Systems Heidelberg, Postfach 10 26 46, 69016 Heidelberg, Germany.

Falcon takes to the rails

AT LONG last Falcon-specific games are beginning to appear. Golden Island runs only on the Falcon in the high resolution 256-colour mode.

Because of this, a VGA monitor is recommended, as running the game on an RGB monitor is only possible in the interlace mode.

The game is based around a railway network and the goal is to drive a train collecting gold, which has been hidden all over the place by a bunch of criminals.

The train contains a crane which is used to pick

up the gold and to load it in. Various other objects can also be collected and used along the way.

In the course of the game enemy trains must be destroyed without using any weapons and this can prove a formidable challenge.

It supports those rarely-used extended joystick ports and there are plans to support the new Atari Joypad game controller.

Golden Island costs DM59 (about £2S) and is available from WBW-Service, Willi B. Werk, Osterfeuerbergstr. 38, 2B219 Bremen, Germany.

CHRONOS, the calendar/appointment planner with a difference reviewed in last November's Euro News has just been released in vI.S.

Improvements include MultiTOS compatibility, more appointments are shown during booting, additional astronomical data is displayed and the appointments now extend all the way to the end of year 2107 for those who intend to live that long.

To register send £12 to Daniel Roth, Bruecker Mauspfad 448, S1109 Cologne, Germany.

The author of 1st Guide, the highly recommended multimedia hypercard program reviewed here in the Christmas issue, has moved. The new address is: Guido Vollbeding, Turmstr. 61, 06110 Halle/Saale, Germany. Send £10 to receive a registered copy of the program.

The eMailList mentioned here in the Christmas edition of EuroNews is now up to v6. Since its release this email equivalent of Yellow Pages directory of prominent Atari individuals and companies has rapidly grown in size and become international.

A must for anyone involved with Atari. Write to Achim_Wilhelm @ m4.maus.de for more information.



this month and introduce a game. Utopos is a shareware offering from a group of Finnish ST enthusiasts who go by the name of Aggression.

It's a shoot-'em-up, programmed to high professional standards with excellent

The program makes full use of all of STE features. This means 32 colours, eight channels of sound and smooth scrolling.

A horizontally split screen supports two players, each controlling their own spaceship.

Agressia are bilingual and speak both English and French. The playable demo version is available at the Necronomicon BBS in Finland which can be telephoned on +358-0-3882710.

For a full version send £6 in cash (the authors insists on cash) to Jani Penttinen, Lahdekuja 2bS, 16300 Orimattila, Finland.

An expanding Portfolio

SEVERAL Portfolio products have just been announced by Eickmann Computer, proving that the grandfather of all pocket computers is still alive and kicking.

The memory card called Stefanie comes populated with 128k of RAM, but the really interesting products are the floppy and hard disk interfaces.

For DM300 (about £120) you get the Diskfolio Interface with serial, parallel and floppy drive ports.

The bundle also contains an ST-compatible floppy drive. The hard drive version, called Universal Interface, also has both serial and parallel ports.

In addition, it contains room for up to \$12k of RAM and a built-in ROM with a software driver, a terminal program and P-BASIC. The hard disk connects to the parallel port.

Contact Eickmann Computer at In der Roemerstadt 259, 60488 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.





33 Ormskirk Rd, Preston, Lancs, **PR1 20P**

Ladbroke Computing International are one of the longest established home computer dealers in the U.K. We have developed an extensive customer service policy which involves testing of all hardware prior to despatch to ensure that goods arrive in working order, offering free advice and support over the phone and keeping customers informed. Although our prices are not always the cheapest we do endeavour to offer consistently good service and backup.

All prices are correct at copy date 10/1/94 (while stocks last), and are subject to change without prior notice. All prices include VAT but exclude delivery.

You can order by mail Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to Ladbroke Computing. Or give your credit card details

Postal delivery is available on small items under £40 (Normally £3, phone for details). Add £7 for courier delivery. Next working day delivery on mainland UK subject to stock (£20 for Saturday delivery).

> Open Mon-Sat 9.30am to 5.00pm. Ladbroke Computing Ltd trading as Ladbroke Computing International.

Fax: (0772) 561071 Tel: 9.00am-5.30pm (5 Lines)



Star SJ144 The Star SJ144 is a Colour/Mono

thermal wax transfer printer which gives glossy colour output on normal paper.

• 360 dpi resolution

 Emulates Epson LQ 860, IBM Proprinter & NEC graphics

Fiophilitei & NEO grapi	IIICS
Colour Ribbon	£6
Mono Ribbon	£5
Star	
Star LC100 Colour	£149
Star LC24/100 Mono	£169
Starjet SJ48 Bubblejet	£210
SJ48 Sheet Feeder	£55
SJ48 Ink Cartridge	£19
Citizen	
Citizen Swift 240 Colour	£260
Citizen PRO Jet	£209
Hewlett Packard	
HP Deskjet 510	£309
HP Deskjet 310	£239
HP Deskjet portable	£212
HP Deskjet 550 Colour	£599
Hp DJ500 Colour ink cart	£26
Lasers	
Ricoh LP1200	£699

Add £3 for cable, Add £7 for delivery





The Data Pulse Plus range of drives features a full metal case with integral PSU ideal as a monitor stand.

All Data Pulse Plus Drives now come configured with industry standard 50 way SCSI Centronics sockets which allows connection of the ICD LINK (no clock) for use on the ST or a SCSI II cable for use on the Falcon etc.

To ensure the highest possible reliability, the drives are tested at every stage of assembly by skilled technicians.

All drives are ready to 'Plug in and

Monitors/

Dataview Mono ST £139.99 The Dataview Monochrome monitor comes complete with our custom designed adaptor. The adaptor incorporates a small beeper and also a 2.5mm output for better sound reproduction. The monitor/ adaptor combination is fully compatible with all ST high resolution programmes and includes a tilt/swivel stand.

Multisync Monitor

Microvitec 1440 £399.99 ST Switch Box £29.99 Falcon VGA adaptor £9.99 The Microvitec 1440 is a multisync

monitor compatible with both the Atari ST and the Falcon. Utilising the ST switch box it is possible to display all three ST resolutions on the same monitor. Also compatible with screen blaster for the FALCON.

"Microvitec 1440...Highly recommended"-Atari ST User

Dataview .28 SVGA £239.99 This high quality SVGA colour monitor comes complete with Falcon adaptor. The .28 dot pitch gives the highest quality picture (Falcon will only display 256 colours in high resolutions).

ST-SVGA adaptor	£19.99
Falcon-Composite	£9.99
Falcon Scart	£13.99
Falcon-ST Mon adaptor	£9.99
SCART STE cable	£9.99
SCART STFM cable	29.99

Scart TV's

Samsung CI5322X £249.99 The Samsung CI5322X is a 20" TV with SCART input for high quality display of computer output. It also features remote control, on screen displays, Auto tuning system (requires SCART lead).

Samsung C13352X £179.99 The Samsung C13352X is a 14" SCART input TV with remote control and on-screen displays (requires SCART lead).

Go' when you receive them. When you first boot up your hard drive you will find a wealth of Public Domain Utilities which have been selected by our support staff.

All Data Pulse Plus Drives include 12 months warranty and free phone advice and support by genuine Data Pulse Plus users.

The low power consumption of these Autoparking Autobooting mechanisms means that they can operate well within their safe operational temperature ranges without the need for fan cooling. This coupled with the design of the case results in probably the quietest Hard Drive range available for the ST.

Floptical drives are a reliable, high density, replacement media drive for the ST or Falcon. Due to an optical positioning system the Floptical drive is capable of storing 21Mb of data on one 3.5" Floptical disk. The drive can also read/write 720K and 1.44Mb HD disks

Re-Writeable Optical drives are a

Falcon 030

- 16MHz 32 bit 68030 Central Processor, 16MHz Blitter, 32MHz 56001 Digital Signal Processor
- 1.44Mb 3.5" Floppy, up to 14Mb RAM. Displays 65536 colours from 262144 palette at 768 x 480 resolution
- 8 Channel 16 bit, high quality. Stereo sound sampling

FALCON 1Mb RAM No HD	£499
FALCON 4Mb No HD	£699
FALCON 4Mb 64Mb HD	£799
FALCON 4Mb 127Mb HD	£899
FALCON 4Mb 209Mb HD	£999

STE Pach	, 9
1040 STE	£199.99
2Mb STE	£269.99
4Mb STE	£329.99

4Mb STE 3.5" External Drive

Zydec 3.5" External Floppy drive. Includes own external power supply.

£59.99 Speed Mouse

High quality 300 dpi mouse with microswitched buttons ST/AM.

£11.99 Marpet Upgrades

Marpet upgrades for the ST are "plug in" and require no soldering. They are compatible with most motherboard layouts and come with full fitting instructions. These boards accept SIMM boards and are upgradeable at a later date. Please check that MMU and Shifter are "socketed" before ordering.

Unpopulated Marpet Board See SIMM prices below Forget Me Clock II £13.99 512K SIMM'S 2MB SIMM'S £5.99 era aa

£119.99

Midistudio Master

4MB SIMM'S

240 PPO Midi Standard file format compatible, 100 tracks, Phrase arrangement. Very easy to use.

£9.99

"Data Pulse is astonishingly fast"-Andrew Wright, ST User

new addition to the Datapulse range, offering staggering density with hard drive speed. Each 3.5" optical disk stores 128Mb with access time of 30ms and a data transfer rate of 600K per second.

Data Pulse +52Mb	£150
Data Pulse +60Mb	£170
Data Pulse +170Mb	£280
Data Pulse +240Mb	£360
D/P +21Mb Floptical	£330
D/P +128Mb Optical	£610
Please note all prices	
for main drive unit on	
LINK for use with S	Tor SCSI

cable for use with FALCON ICD LINK (ST) £89.99 £39.99 £35.00

SCSI Cable (Falcon) 128Mb Optical disk 21Mb Floptical Disk £19.99 ICD PRO Utilities £39.99

Hand Scanner

- 100,200,300,400 Dpi Resolution
- 1 letter mode, 3 photo modes
- 105mm scanning head Includes Cartridge through port with
- switch box Supplied with Scanlite Accessory.
- Compatible with any graphics package which supports accessories. Allows scanning directly into
- compatible packages, such as

Hand Scanner+ **Scanlite £99.99**

Hand scanner supplied with Silhouette V1.4 Autotracing vector package (mono monitor only). £119.99

Repair Services

The Only ATARI **Authorised Repair** Centre in the UK

Our Atari trained technicians can repair ST's at competitive rates. We can arrange for fully insured, courier pickup and return delivery of your machine to ensure its safety. We even have a same day service which will ensure your machine is given priority and subject to fault, completed the same day.

We offer a Quotation service for £15 for which we will examine your machine and report back with an exact price for repair. If you do not wish to go ahead with the repairs then just pay the £15. However if you do go ahead then the charge is included in the minimum charge.

Please note: The minimum charge covers labour, any extra parts are chargeable.

Minimum repair charge £35.25 Same day service STFM(E) PSU £15.00 £34 99 1Mb intérnal drive £39.99 TOS 2.06 + Switch STFM £65.00 Courier Pickup £11.00 Courier Return

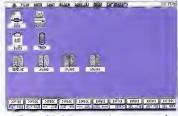
PC Emulators

Check configuration before ordering

PC Speed STFM or STE (XT) £49.99 AT Speed STFM (8MHz) £139.99



Lots of CoverDisk goodies for you this month with the Tempus 2 text editor from HiSoft and a great "hacker" game going by the curious name of Naarjek



Tempus' desktop-type environment, complete with icons, makes it a joy to use

with its own

empus 2 Version	Select File for	
he manual incor tecord with Echo	Path: H:\CD_CHECK\TEMPUS*.*	
acro i_values a ere are the cor	KEYSYS JNSIA PEAD HE	
ecord with Echo	BIV PRINT THE READ HE READ HE READ HE	
i_value=1667 keyboard sho	CIV TEMPUSZ PRO M.PAS M.DUC	
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keyboard sho	*.HDD (*.ASH	
This is incorrect 38 and 111. The	FA	
38 and 111. The	G:\ O Cancel	

Tempus 2

The complete and unrestricted text editor from HiSoft. Fast, feature packed and very powerful

THERE are many text editors available for the ST but few have the speed and features which Tempus 2 offers in such a small program.

Written completely in assembly language and utilising GEM to the full, Tempus 2 provides both speed and ease of use. It works both on colour or mono monitors and lets you edit up to four files simultaneously.

The size of files being edited is limited only by available memory and text lines can be 2SS characters long. Full block editing features are available to make copying and pasting of selected sections of text very easy.

Other powerful features include macros, definable function keys and the ability to configure the keyboard.

Tempus 2 also includes its own custom file selector to replace the less versatile one which is offered by GEM.

The number of features which Tempus

By: HiSoft/CCD

Configuration: All STs - medium or high resolution

Filenemes: X_TEMPUS.TDS - Selfextrecting erchive

Disk epece required: 163,182 bytes Stert progrem with: TEMPUS2.PRG

offers are too numerous to list here which is why the Tempus 2 manual runs to 124 pages, but, to get a more detailed description of just how good Tempus 2 is, turn to this month's Disk Tutorial pages for a basic guide to some of its features.

Tempus 2 reader offer

Yau can abtain the full 124-page manual and master disk for \$14.95 + £1 p&p from HiSoft. Far further information on this special offer, turn to page 18.

Excellent shareware sound sampler software which can be used with both ST Replay and DataSound cartridges

SOUND Lab is split into two archived files called X SNDLB1.TOS, which is the documentation, and X_SNDLB2.TOS, which contains the program and data files.

You will need to copy them to their own separate disk and extract them from there first. You can then delete the archived files and put all the remaining files onto one disk.

Sound Lab is a brilliant shareware sound sampling program which offers lots of features for creating and manipulating sound samples in

By: Demien M Jones Configuration: All STe - medium or high recolution Filenemee: X_SNDLB1.TOS,

X SNDLB2.TDS - Self-extrecting erchives Disk spece required: 214,749 (disk 1), 709,112 (disk 2)

Stert progrem with: SDUNDLAB.TDS

varying formats.

It works with ST Replay and DaataSound cartridges, which are needed in order to record samples from a sound source such as a hi-fi.

There are many functions available which will allow you to manipulate and edit samples in memory as well as record and play them.

Albion

A versatile and powerful file information utility to replace the Show Info function available from the ST's desktop

MANY of you must be familiar with some of the functions offered by the ST's desktop. One in particular, called Show Information, which is available from the File menu, allows you to alter certain attributes of a file or folder as well as view other file information such as size, date and time created.

On a standard ST, you can set a files attribute to either Read Only, or Read/Write, and you can also rename the file from here too.

Those of you with later TOS versions, such as 1.4 or above, have the added bonus of being able to rename a folder, which is not possible

By: Carl J Hafner Configuration: All STs - all resolutions Filenames: X_ALBION.TOS -Salf-extracting archive Oisk space required: 136,807 bytes Start program with: ALBION.PRG

on STs with TOS 1.2 or earlier.

However, the later TOS versions do support other file attributes such as the Fastload and Hidden attributes. The Fastload attribute, when set, increases the speed at which the file is loaded and run.

These special attributes are not alterable from the Show Information function from the desktop, not even in the latest TOS versions, including MultiTOS.

As well as offering the features which the

read only fastload stamp locate volume | create volume filename: FCOPYPRO.PRG delete okay select chars

Albion gives you much more information and control over various aspects of a file and its attributes

standard Show Information function does, Albion allows access to these special attributes and also includes some other useful features too

For more information on these features, check out the documentation file which is included with the program.

Five to Five

A great utility for converting sound sample files from one format to another

THERE are many sound sampling packages both for the ST and other computers and each have their own file formats when saving sound samples to disk.

In general, the data which represents the actual sound recorded is stored much the same way in many files, the problem with being able to read a sample file in a program different to the one that the file was saved in, lies in the "header"

This header section of the file contains information on such things as the speed (or By: Harald Schinfield end Bernd Spellenberg Canfiguration - All STs - medium ar high recalution Filenemes: X 525,TOS - Self-

extrecting erchive

Olek epace required: 104,225 bytes Start progrem with: 525E.PRG

frequency) at which the sample was recorded, whether the sound data is 8 or 16-bit and the length of the recorded sound data.

Each of the many sound sampler programs has its own way of storing this header information and some headers contain more information than others.

Five to Five enables you to load a sound sample file in one format and save it in a differ-

Convert sample Import sample: SNUS SAUR O Rau data Bit Stereo Bit Stereo deltapack Various Five to Five buttons apply changes to the

currently loaded sample file prior to converting it ent format.

There are masses of PD disks for all computers which contain lots of sound sample files and with Five to Five, you can now convert some of them to use in your own favourite sampling package.

oGo

A great utility to speed up the executing or loading of programs or data

DO YOU have a drive with lots of programs or utilities stored in their own folders? Do you

need a quick way to execute a specific file without having to wade through folder within nested folder to find it and then run it? Well, GoGoST is just the program you need.

This little gem (no pun intended, honest) lets you assign programs or a data file to a bank of buttons which, when clicked on, will execute the program assigned to it.

If a data file is assigned to a button say for instance your latest assembly source code for a game - you can configure GoGoST to load the appropriate program, such as Devpac3, ready to edit the data file.

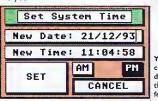
Essentially, GoGoST is a GEM based "menu" system which displays the files specified by you, ready for executing at the click of a button.

Although those of you with hard disks chock full of folders and programs will find it of most use, GoGoST can also be used on a floppy disk drive system.

By: Mark Cawthon Configuration: All STs - all resolutions

Filenamas: X_GOGOST.TOS - Salfextracting archive

Disk space raquired: 159,178 bytes Start program with: GOGOST.PRG



You can set the current time and date which is used by the activity log feature in GoGoST

GOGO+ST Box Setup Panel Box Title: EDGE.PRG. OTHER NONE Simply click on a empty button and the Setup Panel appears where you can assign a Program Type: dai TOS program or Default Path: FILE APPL data file to the DK CANCEL specified button

CoverDisk Hotline

Hatline number: 0625 859766, 2pm to 5pm every Wednesday.

If you have any other problems with the CaverDisk, aur technical editor, Darren Evans, will be available an the Atari ST User CaverDisk Hatline, Help is anly available within the times specified, and na advice will be available autside these haurs.

If a fault turns up...

With thousands of disks being duplicated each manth, a few will inevitably be faulty. Fartunately, we can help you. Send the faulty disk to:

PC Wise, Dowlais Tap Business Park, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan CF48 2YY.

A replacement will be sent free af charge but please allow 28 days for delivery.

Single-sided service

Single-sided drive users wanting the cantents an this manth's disk an single-sided disks shauld send their anginal CaverDisk and a cheque far £1.50 payable to Atari 5T User - to SSD Service, Atori ST User, Europa House, Adlinaton Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

Soma

A brilliant 3D puzzle game which will test your acuity powers to the limit

THIS game is based on the ancient Soma Cube puzzle in which a cube is "cut" into different shapes that you must re-assemble into a complete cube.

The game is completely mouse driven and is very easy to use. Simply choose one of the seven cube pieces displayed at the top of the screen and then click on the down arrow to transfer it to the hexagon on the left.

You can then rotate the cube piece in 3D by clicking on the small cube in the top left with the mouse button. To position a piece, click on

By: Mark J Gallagher Configuration: All ST/STEs - low resolution Filenames: X SOMA.TOS - selfextracting archive Oisk space required: 34,915 bytes

Start program with: SOMA.PRG the direction arrows with the mouse button.

Once you are satisfied with the piece's current position and orientation, click on the arrow at the bottom of the screen to transfer it to the right hexagon which is where the cube is to be assembled.

Should you make a total cock-up, you can remove the offending piece or pieces by selecting its shape and clicking on the up

Mind-taxing spatial awareness is required if you are to successfully complete a cube

Using the CoverDisk

Write-protect your CoverOisk now by sliding the write-protect tab so you can see through the hole at the top right corner of the CoverOisk. In order to fill the disk with as many programs as

possible, ST User employs disk compression techniques when placing large programs on the CoverOisk.

These files are termed "archived files" and cannot be directly executed from the CoverOisk. Archived files are identified to the coverOisk control of the coverOisk contro

fied by their names beginning with X_.

Any files that do not begin with X_ are actually folders

containing files which are not compressed.

These uncompressed files should also be copied to a blank disk. Following are a series of step-by-step instructions for using the CoverDisk

Important: The ST User CoverOisk uses an extended format of 10 sectors and 81 tracks to increase storage space. This means you will not be able to copy the disk using the ST's

To make a backup of the CoverOisk, you will need a copying utility, such as FastCopy 3. Such utilities are available from all good PO libraries.

Alternatively, you may use a formatting utility, to format a disk to the same 10 sector, 82 track specification as the CoverOisk and simply copy all files to this.

Using archived files

Using archived ties

Note: When copying files, the ST refers to disk A and disk B in
its on-screen instructions. Oisk A refers to the disk being
copied while disk B refers to the disk being copied to (usually a pre-formatted blank disk). 1. Format a disk.

Copy the required archived file to the formatted disk.
 Run the copied archived file. It will now automatically

4 Once complete, delete the X filename as this is no longer required. The formatted disk should now contain all the files that were in the archive file.

Normal uncompressed files

I. Format a blank disk

2. Open the required folder and copy all files in the folder to the formatted disk.

3. You can now immediately run the program/s as is.

Highlighting and dragging files and icons 1. Click once on the Item, it should turn black (the item is now

2. If you keep the left mouse button held down on the item, a

dotted outline of the item appears and you may then re-position it by moving the mouse to the required position

(effectively dragging the icon) and releasing the mouse button.

If you are new to the ST and did not understand some of

the terminology in the preceding steps. There now follow an explanation of some basic techniques needed.

Formatting a disk

1. Place the disk to be formatted in the drive.

 Highlight the drive A icon.
 Move mouse pointer up to the FILE menu at the top of the screen and select FORMAT.

4. A box will appear. Click on OK.

5. Another box will appear. Ensure OOUBLE SIOED is selected then click on OK. The disk is now being formatted.

Copying files to another disk

I. Select the file to be copied by highlighting it and dragging it to the disk B icon.

2. A box entitled COPY FILE(s) appears. Click on OK and

follow instructions on the screen exchanging disks as requested.

Never Ending Colouring Book

A colouring book program for the young 'uns. Lots of fun and very easy to use

THIS one is for the youngsters and is a simple colouring book program which allows kids to use the mouse to colour in a selection of ten pre-drawn pictures.

There are also ten blank workscreens for you to create your own pictures for the youngster to colour in.

The program also plays a different piece of music every time the program is loaded, which can be turned on or off as required.



A simple and easy to use mouse interface ensures the youngster will soon get to grips with this fun program

By: Tony Greenwood, Tony Gooding and Mad Mex

Configuration: All STe - low resolution Filenemes: X COLOR.TOS - Self-extracting

Oisk space required: 248,301 bytes Start program with: COLOUR.PRG



Once a colour is chosen, simply click on the paintbrush icon and begin colouring in to your hearts content

Naarjek IV

Use your computer skills to hack into a network controlled by Naarjek - an artificial intelligence

THIS is a game in which you must access a computer network and hack your way into the heart of the system.

Those of you familiar with modems and logging on to bulletin boards and other related services will feel at home as the game simulates being logged on to an online service.

Various menus are available, by pressing the appropriate number or typing in the appropriate word. There are also many hidden menus and commands which you must find for your-

The first thing you should do is read the

By: Carl J Hefner

Configuration: All STs - medium resolution Filenemes: X NARJEK.LZH - Self-

extrecting erchive

Oisk spece required: 179,967 bytes Start program with: NAARJEK4.PRG in NAARJEK4 folder

NAARJEK4.TXT documentation file which has some useful background information on Naarjek Data systems.

There is not a great deal of information to help you, instead, you must use all your logic and intellect to hack the system.

It is quite a difficult game and some of us in the office are completely stumped at how you access your personal File area in the game.

Protext 6 - A Winning Performance



Some highlights of Protext 6

Styles

Styles let you make flexible use of printer fonts and effects. You can change a font throughout a document with a single operation.

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Graphic images may be imported into a Protext document. Supports IMG, PCX, GIF and IFF. You can select any resolution and scale the image. Dot matrix, inkjet and laser printers.

length, margins and tabs.

Protext's unrivalled taken by some programs.

Printers

Document Layout

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you lay out your page

precisely as you want using

inches or cm for the page

understanding of printers gives you the highest quality printing at the highest possible speed. Using a printer's built in fonts enables Protext to print pages in seconds rather than the minutes

Protext is still the fastest

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- Fastest at spell checking.
 - Fastest at printing.

Protext still has the best printer support

- Hundreds of printers supported
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 - Scalable font support NEW
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 - Hyphenation
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- Widows and orphans
- Index and contents
- Addition of numbers
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Protext is now easier than ever to use

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f you haven't yet extracted 📮 Tempus 2 from the CoverDisk, do it now. Those of you unfamiliar with archived files should read the disk pages and the section in this tutorial on using the CoverDisk.

Text editors are some of the most common, and most useful, programs around. Not only can they create documents for printing out, they are also used by many programmers as a means for writing programs.

They differ from the many word processors available in that they take up very little memory and they do not have a spelling checker or thesaurus.

Tempus 2 differs from other text editors in that for such a small program (a mere 70k), it offers many features and functions usually only found in word processors.

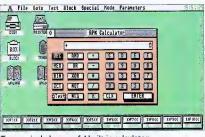
Features such as multiple document editing, macros and extended editing functions, cross reference generation and file comparison are just a few of those available.

Programmers in particular will also find useful features which will aid editing of program source data with Tempus's ability to check for structured source code. C programmers can check for balanced { and } characters (a common source of compiler errors) and Pascal programmers can check for balanced BEGIN and END statements.

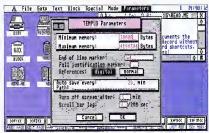
There is even a built-in programmer's calculator offering basic arithmetic functions such as multiply and addition as well as Boolean functions such as NOT, OR, XOR and others, all in hex, decimal, binary or octal bases.

Besides being very small in size, Tempus 2 is also extremely fast. This is because it's written entirely in assembler.

If you haven't already got Tempus 2 up and running, do so now by double clicking on the TEMPUS2.PRG file.



Tempus includes a useful built-in calculator for the programmers among you



Various parameters allow you to switch on auto saving, alter memory usage and configure the built-in screen saver



Tempus uses its own desktop like display and allows up to four document windows to be open at once



Block functions allow text to be selected, then copied to other documents, or saved to disk

Get familiar with the basic features of this month's CoverDisk giveaway, with our informative tutorial

The first thing you should be presented with is Tempus's custom file selector, which is a vast improvement on the ST's built-in one. As you can see, unlike the STs file selector, you can change drives simply by clicking on the appropriate drive boxes to the left.

Also, there are a selection of buttons representing standard file extension names, which can be customised to your tastes.

At this point, locate the text file READ.ME and load it into Tempus by either double clicking on the file name, or by dicking on the file name once and clicking on the Load button. The contents of the READ.ME

> text file should now be displayed in a window.

The window covers the entire screen, but you can alter the size and position of this window as you see fit. Move the mouse pointer to the bottom right-hand corner box of the window.

Press the left-hand mouse button and keep it held down. Now, if you move the mouse, you will see a dashed outline of the window being drawn as you move around.

Make the window as small as



possible and release the left mouse button. You should see the window has been re-drawn to its new, smaller size.

Next, move the mouse pointer to the top horizontal bar of the window, between the top right and left-hand boxes. It's the one where the path name and the name of the file being edited is displayed.

If you press the left mouse button and keep it held down while moving the mouse, you should be able to re-position the window to anywhere on screen. Move the window so it is at the top right-hand

side of the screen.

As you can see, Tempus has its own desktop-like display with icons representing the maximum of four files which can be open at once, as well as other icons for printer, trash and block functions.

Take a look at the four text page icons and you will see that three of them are unused, while one of them contains the name READ.ME. This shows that the file READ.ME is currently resident in memory.

Move the mouse pointer to the top right box of the text window currently open and click the left mouse button. This will close the window.

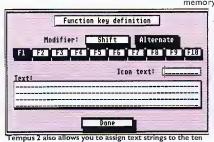
As you can see, although the text window is gone, the text page icon still shows that the file READ.ME is still in memory. This feature means you can

have up to four separate text files in memory with each of them assigned to their own icon.

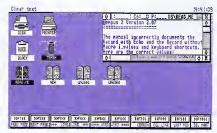
If you wanted to print, clear or save the READ.ME document, you could do it by selecting the appropriate print, clear or save command from the menu at the top of the screen.

However, as you can see, there are other icons on the screen besides the text page

Ignoring the block icon for now, you will see a disk, printer



function keys



Using icons allows quick and intuitive printing, saving or clearing of text

Select File for Path: H:\CD_CHECK\EG\TEMPUS*,* File name: A:\ INS o B:/ INS *.TXT *,* C:V *.DOC *.PAS TEMPUS2 PRG D:\ EIL *.MOD *.ASM *,H FIL Cancel 6:7 File name

Tempus does away with the ST's limited file selector and replaces it with its own custom version

and trashcan icon. If you wanted to clear the READ.ME file from memory, you can simply drag the READ.ME text page icon to the trashcan icon.

Alternatively, if you wanted to print out the READ.ME file, you would drag the READ.ME icon over to the printer icon. This icon method of doing things is obviously much quicker than having to access the menu and the appropriate sub-menu function.

You can have all text files open at the same time, each within its own window. However, things will get a little cluttered unless you are running Tempus on a high resolution monitor, or if you have a graphics card which provides enhanced resolutions

This makes for some powerful multiple document editing with the ability to cut and paste between each document. To show how easy it is to copy text from one document to another, let's create another document.

Move the mouse pointer to the File menu and select Open file.

Locate the File name box and if it contains any text, erase it by pressing the Esc key.

Now type the word NEW into the box and press Return. Tempus will realise that this file does not exist and will ask if you wish to create it. Select the Yes box.

Next, open the READ.ME text file (which should still be in memory) by double clicking on the text page icon marked READ.ME. Now position both the NEW document and READ.ME document windows so that you can see both windows at once.

Click on the READ.ME document window and position the cursor at the top of the document using the mouse.

Now move the mouse pointer to the block menu and select Set block start.

You should see the entire text in READ.ME document window turn blue.

This marks the text for manipulation using the block commands. You will notice that all the text has been selected by default.

If you wanted to just select a specific section of the text body, you would move the cursor to the end of the text section and select Set block end from the Block menu.

With the text selected, move the mouse pointer to the empty NEW document window and position the cursor at the top of the document using the mouse.

If you now move the mouse pointer to the Block menu and select Copy without markers, the text which is selected in the previous window is copied to the window at the current position of the text cursor.

Whenever you mark any text using the Set block commands, the specified text is copied into a buffer. This buffer has its own icon on Tempus's desktop called (spookily enough) Block.

As with the text page icons representing actual documents, the contents of the block buffer can be printed, saved or cleared by dragging them to the appropriate icons or by accessing the menu functions.

As you can see, using Tempus is both intuitive and fast. There are many, many more features available which are covered in a 124-page manual.

This manual is available from HiSoft for the bargain price of £14.9\$ + £1 p&p. For information on how to order, turn to page 18.

Using the CoverDisk - An insider's guide

A quick discussion on the format of our CoverDisk will be of benefit to the many newcomers to the ST who, according to the number of calls we receive on our CoverDisk hotline, seem to be suffering from common problems when trying to extract the CoverDisk files.

To give the maximum value for money we can, Atari ST User uses self-extracting archived files before putting them on the CoverDisk.

This archiving process takes all the files which comprise a particular software package and, using a special technique, reduces the size of each file (known as compression). It then stores all files in one single file, known as the archive file.

Because a program has been compressed and all files stored into a single file, we can fit many more programs onto the CoverDisk than we could have done normally.

For example, this month's collection of files, if stored on a disk without being archived, would require almost 1.4Mb (1,377,S13 bytes to be exact) of disk space, which would mean a double disk issue with a subsequent increase in the magazine price.

After archiving these files, we can reduce the space required to a mere 662,225 bytes, which can fit onto a standard double sided ST disk of 726,016 bytes.

The price of this drastic space saving is that any archived files on the CoverDisk must first be extracted before you can use the programs.

This extraction process involves copying the required archived file from the CoverDisk to another disk and then running the program from it.

Judging from the calls we receive on the CoverDisk hotline, many newcomers are trying to run archived files directly from the CoverDisk, which will most probably result in a Write error.

You should write protect the CoverDisk immediately after removing it from its plastic bag on the front of the mag, and then treat it simply as the master disk for the stored programs on there. In fact, you should ideally make a copy of the CoverDisk as backup and put the original CoverDisk in a safe place.

To use a particular program on the CoverDisk, you must ideally copy the related file (refer to the disk pages for the name of the related file) to a blank formatted disk and then run it from there.

This will start the extraction process and all the files which are stored in the archived file will be copied onto the disk along with the archived file

If you look at the description of the CoverDisk files in the disk pages, you will notice a few changes over previous issues. In particular, new information on the disk space required for an archived file to successfully extract is present, allowing you to calculate whether you can put more than one archived file on a disk to extract them.

As an example, The description of Tempus 2 in the disk pages tells you that the disk space required for Tempus 2 to extract is 163,182. So, this amount of space must be available on the disk you copy the file to.

Once copied you may then run the archived file, at which point the extraction process will begin.

A series of asterisks (the * character) will appear, showing the progress for each file. A successful extraction should end with the message "Press any key".

Pressing any key returns you to the desktop. You will need to reread the disk with the archived file in order to see the new files which have appeared. Press the Esc key or simply double click again on the disk A: icon.

At this point, you can delete the archived file as it is no longer required and is just taking up disk space. All CoverDisk archived files begin with the letter X, as in X_TEMPUS.TOS, to make them easy to spot amongst other files.

Then, simply refer to the disk pages for the name of the file which starts the CoverDisk program, in the case of Tempus, this file is specified as TEMPUS2.PRG, and then run it.



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Sweet memories

Treat your ST to sugar, spice and all things nice with a stonking new memory upgrade. **Andrew Wright reveals** what's available, for how much, and where to get it from

itting a memory upgrade is one of the best things you can do for your-self and your ST. After all, random access memory or RAM is one of the ST's main components - like the disk drive, the CPU and all the other essential chips and components, you can't do anything at all without it.

All programs (and accessories) have to be loaded into RAM before they can be used and even more memory is required for data files. For example, a paint program will use around 32k for each screen size picture it keeps in memory while an image processing package, working on large 24-bit colour images, will need at least 500k to IMb for each one. There's no getting away from it - some programs just won't run if there isn't enough RAM, so the more you have the merrier you'll be.

In the early days of ST computing most people plumped for 520s - after all, who arth could use more than 512k of Spectrum owners at uzzling out ways of using their ful 8k!

HORRIFIC

Some of the more far-sighted users went straight for the full megabyte but the price differential in those days was pretty horrific. Unfortunately it didn't take long before bigger, more powerful programs like Calamus started appearing and it was then that an upgrade to a whole megabyte started to look increasingly tempting. When the first IMb only games arrived, the writing was on the wall for the users still bashing away on 520s.

In a brief survey of the last12 issues of Atari ST User, 10 per cent of the serious software titles reviewed or mentioned would run on any ST/STE. Some 42 per cent needed IMb while an astonishing 22 per cent needed 2Mb or more.

That doesn't include Falcon only software, incidentally, which is much more memory intensive. The picture for 520 gamers was a little rosier with only 40 per cent needing the full megabyte.

Of course, this is a wide generalisation. If you're happy doing your word processing and running the occasional PD game and leisure software, the extra memory won't be a high priority. That doesn't

Upgrading an STE Existing RAM | Desired RAM | Instructions Add 2 x 256k chips in em 512k l Mb 2 Mb Remove 2 existing chips replace with 2 x I Mb chips 4 Mb Remove 4 existing chips a replace with 4 x 1 Mb chips 512k I Mb Remove 4 existing chips and replace with 2 x 1 Mb chips 2 Mb 4 Mb Remove 4 existing chips and replace with 4 x 1 Mb chips I Mb 4 Mb Add 2 x I Mb chips

mean you couldn't benefit from it - it would allow you to load extra accessories, more AUTO folder programs and even try out a sizeable RAM disk.

On the other hand, if your sights are set on the really important serious software launched in the last year or so like MultiTOS, SpeedoGDOS and DA's Vector - that \$12k will be looking awfully cramped.

Any gamer about to argue that 60 per cent of games run perfectly well in a half megabyte machine might well be deluding themselves - if you want to play the up-to-date favourites like Elite 2, Zool and Legends of Valour, you'll need every little byte you can get, and at least a meg.

FIDDLY

Opening up your ST isn't half as daunting as you might think. Fiddly, yes, dangerous, no. It does invalidate your warranty, though, so only try it if you know the warranty has expired or you've decided nothing is going to go wrong with it! In fact STs are extremely reliable machines so the odds are on your side.

The first thing to do is switch off the machine and remove the power lead. Now turn the ST upside down and remove all the screws in the square. Holding the case carefully, turn the ST the right way up and take off the top cover.

Unplug the keyboard and remove the separate metal shields around the power supply and disk drive. Now remove the disk drive (attached by three screws accessible from the underside), disconnect it and put it somewhere safe. Unscrew and remove the power supply board being careful not to touch any of its components. Finally lift off the large

Ouestions and answers

What on earth ore SIMMs and SIPs when they're at home?

A SIMM is a Single In-Line Memory Module while a SIP is a Single In-line Package. SIMMs and SIPs are actually small circuit boards with eight or nine RAM chips on them and they differ mainly in the method of connection which is a row of pads for SIMMs and a row of pins for SIPs. Both can vary in size from 2S6k up to 4Mb.

Whot speed does my memory hove to be?

RAM speed is measured in nanoseconds but it makes little or no difference whatsoever to your Atari what speed they are as long as each pair of chips is the same speed. Far more important is the price and as you pay a premium for faster 70ns or 80ns chips, go for the cheapest.

Yes, in certain circumstances. Upgrades like the Marpet XtraRAM allow you to use one bank of 2 x 1Mb and one bank of 2 x 2S6k RAM chips provided you don't have the 100109 MMU variant.

For STEs it is also possible using a special software patch which is available from PD libraries. Ask for the programs MEM2SSTE or SIMMFIX, both of which are supplied with Go Direct's upgrades or via PD libraries like the ST Club.

metal shield by straightening the metal fasteners that hold it to the board. You should now be looking at a bare motherboard. Impressive, isn't it?

A standard off-the-shelf 520 STE has two 256k SIMM or SIP-style RAM chips in four special slots more or less in the centre of the motherboard (a 1040STE has four such chips while a 2Mb model has two IMb chips and a 4Mb model has four).

The earlier models such as the ST, STF and STFM had two banks of eight smaller chips soldered to the board if they were S20s and four

banks if they were 1040s. These are usually sited on the left hand side of the motherboard, often under the power supply.

STEs are far easier to upgrade as 99 per cent of them will accept plug-in SIMMs while the other one per cent take the rather more awkward SIPs. If you have a SIMM-style STE, you buy extra chips and slot them in, bearing in mind that the slots have to be used in pairs.

With a SIP-style STE, it is far better to add special converters that plug into the motherboard and in turn accept SIMMs (they are sold with the Marpet STE upgrades). If any of the chips are soldered, send it to a specialist centre -

Marpet XtraRAM ST Deluxe

The Marpet XtraRAM ST Deluxe consists of three components a small 40mm by 30mm MMU adaptor, an L-shaped 54mm by 33mm video shifter adaptor and a large 100mm by 75mm board for the SIMM-style RAM chips. Two lengths of cable are supplied for connecting the adaptors to the main memory

There are also a number of wire jumpers with spring loaded clips which are used for disconnecting memory banks in some circumstances.

The upgrade is adequately package and comes with a comprehensive instruction manual that covers every conceivable combination of chips and motherboard layouts. It isn't particularly easy to follow but if you're in doubt, you'll find the answer somewhere inside.

Marpet's XtraRAM Deluxe will upgrade any 520STFM, 1040ST F or FM and a Mega I or 2 ST. The beautyof the XtraRAM Deluxe is that you can upgrade in steps if you want to, with IMb, 2Mb or 4Mb configurations though it makes little sense these days to go for the IMb option as the two 256k SIMMs may well be wasted when you upgrade to

As industry standard SIMMs are used, you can buy the unpopulated board and shop around for the RAM chips if necessary.

Fitting the upgrade is relatively easy, thanks to the comprehensive instructions, but it can be awkward finding room for the large board and if you have the rectangular MMU, some soldering will be required. A RAM testing program is supplied on a disk so you can check that it all works.

The XtraRAM Deluxe is the best selling board in the UK and comes highly recommended, particularly if you're looking at a 2Mb upgrade.who's to say you won't need more in a year's time?



Product: XtraRAM Deluxe 2/4 Mb Supplier: Marpet Developments, Meadowfield Farm, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate HG4 ILU

Telephone: 0423 712600 Price: £179.99 Configuration: Any 520/1040 STF/M or Mega ST

you can do an awful lot of damage to the motherboard in no time at all. Table I shows you how to go about it.

5TFMs are a different kettle of fish, but the upgrades all work in much the same way. The original memory on the motherboard is bypassed completely and a new memory bank installed.

This requires that the MMU or memory management unit be modified slightly and also that the new RAM be connected to the video shifter chip. This can be a somewhat more laborious process than with an STE but at least the benefits are the same!

In the centre of the motherboard is a large silver metal box. If you gently unfasten the lid, you'll see a rectangular chip. This is the video shifter and it can be socketed (removable) or surface mounted (soldered to the board). It will be marked either 25914 or 70713.

If the chip is socketed, so much the better, but don't despair otherwise. It just makes fitting a little more difficult as a special adaptor has to be placed over the chip. If you're in any doubt, send it off to a specialist repair centre.

There are four different motherboard layouts to contend with. Look for a large square chip with the number CO25912 or CO100109 on it. This will be the

If you can't find it, look for a rectangular chip with the number CO101601. If you find one of them, mutter silently to yourself - soldering is required and it's a iob for the experts.

If you find a square socketed MMU (socketed chips are noticeably raised and may have spring clips across) it could be

Where to go

Marpet Developments are without doubt the UK's leading Atari memory specialists and they have appointed two agents to carry out upgrades, Peak Electronics (0429 860821) for the north and Analogic (081 546 9575) in the south.

All the company's products carry a two year warranty and there is on-line telephone support if needed.

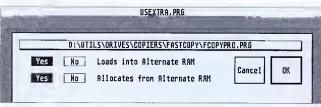
In addition to Power Computing and Evesham Micros other places to go include Go Direct (0480 891819) who will supply and fit Marpet XtraRAM upgrades or their own proprietary brand based on the Marpet system.

A free disk full of memory checking utilities is included. System Solutions (081-693 3355) and Ladbroke Computing (0772 203166) also supply Marpet upgrades, the latter having recently discontinued their own Aries brand.

in one of three positions, to the left of the video shifter (Type I), to the right of the video shifter next to another square chip (Type 2) or in front of and very close to the video shifter (Type 3). These types of motherboard don't normally cause problems unless the video shifter is soldered.

If you find a square MMU that is surface mounted - stuck solidly to the motherboard with small silver legs showing - it makes things a little more awkward but by no means impossible.

Whoever sold you the upgrade should be able to provide a special adaptor - certainly companies like Marpet and Go Direct are well equipped to help.



The supplied utility can make most programs aware of the extra RAM -Fastcopy Pro, for example, will now use the full 8Mb

Power Computing 2/4Mb upgrades

TOTAL PROPERTY.

Power Computing can supply their own brand 2 and 4Mb upgrades which take a slightly different approach to the others. The upgrade consists of a 100mm by 63mm L-shaped video shifter adaptors and a smaller 40mm by 30mm MMU adaptors.

There are also a number of jump leads with red spring loaded clips. The two boards are linked by a single 200mm cable.

In contrast to the Evesham method, the Power upgrade has the RAM configured as 512k chips - 4 for the 2Mb version and 8 for the 4Mb - on the video adaptors board rather than the MMU adaptors.

This offers some advantages in that there is no bulky board piggy-backed on the MMU which can cause a bulge in the main shielding (or necessitate a square being cut from the shielding). On the other hand the video



Marpet XtraRAM STE

STE owners have it remarkably easy, of course, and about 90 per cent of you will be able to buy SIMMs off the shelf and insert them into the appropriate slots.

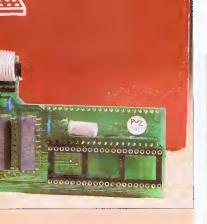
However, Marpet supply dedicated STE upgrade packs comprising I, 2 or 4Mb upgrades. These consist of SIMM-style RAM boards with special 96mm long converter strips for the ten per cent or so of STEs that require SIP-style chips instead. The packs come with a double sided A4 sheet of instructions.

Just how easy it is to fit depends on what you already have in your STE and what you want to end up with - if you have 2Mb already and want to upgrade to 4Mb, it couldn't be easier as all you have to do is fit the two extra boards but if you're upgrading a IMb STE to 4Mb, you'll have to remove all four existing 2S6k boards and replace them with the four new IMb ones.

If you're unsure about how to go about your STE upgrade, it makes sense to look at the Marpet upgrade if only for your peace of mind and the comprehensive instructions.



Supplier: Marpet Developments, Meadowfield Farm, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate HG4 ILU Telephone: 0423 712600 Price: £79.99 Configuration: Any 520/1040/2Mb STE



shifter compartment lid has to be cut away to make room for the bulky Power board.

The difficulty with the Power upgrade is that it only works with socketed video shifter and MMU chips — if you have the surface mount variety, you won't be able to do the job yourself. If you're fitting a 4Mb upgrade (or a 2Mb upgrade to a 1Mb machine) you will also need to cut some resistors on the motherboard and hook them to the RAM board using the supplied jump leads.

Product: 2/4Mb RAM board
Supplier: Power Computing, Unit 8, Railton
Road, Woburn Road Industrial Estate,
Kempston, Beds MK42 7PN
Telephone: 0234 843388
Price: £99169
Configuration: Any 520/1040 STF/M with
socketed chips



Marpet XtraRAM Plus 8

Of course if you want to go one better than your neighbour, there's always the option of the king of memory upgrades, the Marpet XtraRAM Plus 8. If you have an STE or a Mega ST, you can add a special plug-in board that offers either 4 or 8Mb of extra RAM, on top of your machine's built-in RAM.

If you use your fingers to count you'd better get your socks off because you can then have 4Mb of normal RAM and 8Mb of extra RAM, making a grand total of I2Mb!

There are a few ground rules though, so don't get your credit card out yet. You will need a 2 or 4Mb STE and one that uses SIMMs, rather than SIPs. You will also have to have TOS 2.06 specially installed in ROM.

The unpopulated XtraRAM Plus 8 board costs a mere £59.99 and you can then shop around for industry standard SIMMs. Alternatively, Marpet's price of £349.99 for the board and two 4Mb SIMMs isn't at all bad considering the cost of memory at present.

The Plus 8 itself is a large L-shaped board that contains its own separate MMU chip and the sockets for the 4Mb SIMMs, and fits tidlly if a little awkwardly on top of the STE's CPU.

No soldering is required and the installation can be done quickly and easily by mounting the Plus 8 board piggy-back fashion onto the CPU. There's a small support underneath to keep it attached and stable when the shielding is replaced. Note that no cutting is necessary despite the size of the board.

The Plus 8 board fools the STE or Mega ST into thinking it has TT style extra RAM fitted. Many older programs will not be able to use this extra memory, whatever you try and do to

them, as they weren't written to take advantage of it and they will only be able to use the STE's main memory. After all, TOS can only address 4Mb of RAM, and the extra part is only accessed using son

only address 4Mb of RAM and the extra part is only accessed using some programming trickery.

Programs that were written with the TT in mind will almost certainly be able to use the

Programs that were written with the 11 in mind will almost certainly be able to use the extra room, even if it does become necessary to use the supplied utility that alters the program flags and instructs it whether or not to use the extra RAM.

The list of programs includes all versions of Calamus, Didot Professional, DA's Vector and image processing programs like Chagall.

Some RAM disks will work too, including RAMBUFFR and RAMBABY, the PD accessory RAM disks, making it theoretically possible to set up an 8Mb RAM disk for running programs and storing data!

It is important to note that there are still two separate areas of RAM and the biggest single block will be 8Mb or so depending on your configuration. Nonetheless if you're into DTP, graphics, image processing or CAD, this could be just the job for really banishing those out of memory blues.

Product: XtraRAM Plus 8

Supplier: Marpet Developments, Meadowfield Farm, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate HG4

Telephone: 0423 712600

Price: £59.99 unpopulated/£349.99

with 8Mb on board

Configuration: Any STE with TOS 2.06 and 2 or 4Mb RAM using SIMMs

Evesham Micros 1Mb upgrade

Evesham Micros have been selling memory upgrades for the ST for as long as I can remember.

The company currently sells solderless upgrades to I/Nb and 2 or 2.SMb for all \$20ST models. The remarkably compact board is supplied in a sturdy black cardboard box with three photocopied pages of instructions. The unit itself comprises

a small green board some 86mm long and 39mm wide with three sets of downward pointing pins for attachment to the MMU.

The memory chips (four 2S6k RAM chips in the case of the IMb upgrade) are soldered to the upper surface of the board. A 240mm cable connects the board to a video shifter adaptor SSmm long by 25mm wide.

The instructions are brief but effective and especially good for those new to the upgrade game who have never opened up an ST before. On the other hand, not all possibilities are covered (the rare rectangular MMU) and in some circumstances, such as a soldered in MMU, you will not be such as a soldered to obtain additional (free) parts from Evesham before you proceed.

Product: 520ST plug-in RAM upgrade Supplier: Evesham Micros, Unit 9, St Richards Road, Evesham WRII 6TD Telephone: 0386 765500 Price: £49.95 Configuration: Any 520STF/M

t's the old, old problem - you've got one type of computer at work, one at home and a third at your mate's house. If you've got kids, the chances are there's even a fourth at school.

Generally speaking the IBM-compatible PC is the prime choice for big companies while the Apple Macintosh is still the accepted standard in desktop publishing and creative graphics.

In schools, the Acorn Archimedes is coming out on top, gradually replacing the old BBC micros, while at the home computer end, the Amigas and Ataris are still battling it out.

None of these five main computer platforms have much in common other than a screen and a keyboard. They might be able to share many peripherals like hard drives and printers but the chips they're based on and the operating systems that make them work are about as different as they could possibly be.

Naturally this presents problems for those who want to swap information from one to another, be it a scanned graphics file, a 30,000 word dissertation or even a piece of music.

There are scores of reasons for transferring files - you might want to take a long letter written on an ST at home and print it at top quality on a laser at work, or you might have access to a flatbed scanner at the office on which you want to scan full colour images for viewing on your ST.

Happily there are a couple of areas where most computers agree - they share the same 3.5in floppy disk drives and invariably have RS232 standard serial ports. If you want to swap stuff around, these are the places to look.

The logical way to transfer files from one computer to another is to use the disk drive. Unfortunately most computers have their own ways of formatting disks so that they can store information and not all of them can read those formatted for different machines

The good news is that the world is slowly starting to standardise on

one particular format, the MS-DOS disk format used in IBM-compatible PCs.

The Apple Macintosh has the most radically different disk format but with the appropriate software (Apple File Exchange, DOS Mounter) almost all Macs can now be persuaded to read MS-DOS disks.

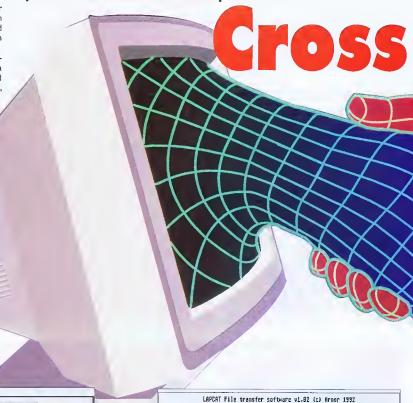
The Archimedes has MS-DOS file compatibility built in, although it uses a different system by default, and the Amiga can read and write MS-DOS disks with special software like CrossDOS, DOS-2-DOS or MessySID.

Luckily for most ST owners the ST's TOS disk handling routines were based largely on those in MS-DOS and the disk formats are remarkably similar. Unfortunately there is no such thing as 100 per cent compatibility as some PCs will not read ST formatted disks under any circumstances, even if formatted using specialist software like Fastcopy Pro, Diamond Formatter or Maxifile.

Interestingly the use of a PC emulator doesn't appear to help much in my experience but it is hard to generalise because there are so many different makes of floppy disk drive fitted in STs that one will work where another fails.

Disks formatted on a PC can be read by an ST more reliably (with TOS 1.4 or later) but quite often writing to the disk on one machine can make it unreadable

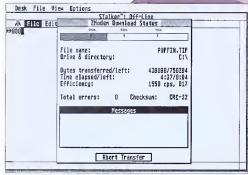
Andrew Wright looks at ways of getting your ST to talk to other computers



< Choose File > Filename: { Transfer direction — () Send File (*) Receive File

Press I to Transfer

Receiving files by YMODEM Receiving TOM.TIF by Ymodem Press ESC to abandon transfer Butes received : 19788



Serial transfer requires a comms program at each end

Lapcat in action

Transfer method
() SImple () Xnodem (*) Ynodem

Press @ go Quit -

on the other and the whole process is fraught with difficulty. Incidentally the Falcon seems to have cured the problem completely and now formats, reads and writes disks usable in most PCs.

Apple File Exchange is another bugbear as it rejects around a half of disks formatted on an ST and the ST doesn't appear to read anything formatted within AFE either.

Diamond Formatter will create AFE compatible disks with a slightly higher chance of success but if you are regularly swapping information between STs and Macs, it's worth investing in better Mac software or perhaps the Spectre GCR emulator for the ST.

If transfer via floppy disk doesn't work - or of the files are simply too big to fit on a floppy - cable transfer is the next option. The traditional method is to use serial link but of course the two computers have to be side by side, which is a little awkward if you're trying to get material to and from a computer at the office.

If you really can't get the computers into the same room, they can be connected using modems but this means you'll need a telephone connection and a whole lot of new skills. Modem transfer

T File transfer software v1.82 (c) Arnor 1992
F:\FDNTS\PFB*.* O K

Selecting files

using Lapcat

Text editors like EdHak will remove unwanted carriage returns and line feeds, as well as search and replace spurious characters

Select files with space bar and press RETURS

RETURNI Select file (A) Show all 1788 free space: 17680 Trippe (E) Select file (A) Show all 1788 format (File spec, [M]ew dir, [Tippe [E]ross [R]eoner [C] Dopy file(5) [D]rive change [ESG] end

the AUTO folder or simply turning RTS/CTS off completely - at both ends. In tests on the same files, an average transfer rate of around 1,500 characters (I.Sk) a second was achieved using STalker linked to a PC and the Z modem protocol. It isn't ideal - a

IMB file will take about II minutes - but often it is the only way.

There is another cable option. Arnor's Lapcat software was designed transferring information from Amstrad the NC100 and NC200 notebooks and it uses a special parallel cable to do the deed.

Software is available for transferring files from the notebooks to PCs, STs, Amigas and Archimedes but the same software can be used to swap data between any computer combination. Data transfer is much faster (around 3000 cps or 3k a second) but considerably less than the maximum theoretical speed of the parallel port which is somewhere in the region of S00k a second. Three protocols are supported including

simple transfer (no error checking and therefore fastest), X modem and Y modem (which supports the batch transfer of more than one file at a time).

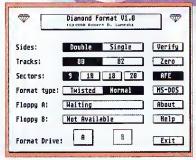
Unfortunately, the physical transfer of files isn't the end of the matter. For example, each ST word processor uses a slightly different format for saving text, so it's only natural to expect the same from word processors on other computers. Word processors like Redacteur and Protext will read word processor files from PCs, including those from

ain't for the faint hearted. For serial transfer you'll need a null modem cable a standard serial cable with pins 2 and 3 swapped around - and a compatible communications package on each machine.

This means a comms programs that will send and receive using the same protocols, something which shouldn't be difficult as most comms programs now handle X. Y and Z modem.

For best results set the baud rate to 19,200 and ensure that other settings such as data bits and parity are the same. You may experience problems with RTS/CTS flow control as the ST's end of it is well and truly bugged.

This may require a patch program in



Diamond Format creates AFE and DOS compatible disks - up to a point Microsoft Word, WordPerfect and Wordstar

The best way to transfer text is to use the Microsoft RTF format, if possible, because it preserves formatting such as bold, italic and underlined characters.

Programs like Redacteur and Protext both support RTF transfer. Ascii is the second best option as all computers understand the Ascii character set, but some characters won't be translated correctly.

For instance, the pound sign is represented by the 156th character in the ST's character table but on IBM PCs it is the 163rd, which is actually the letter u with an acute accent on the ST. A text editor with good search and replace facilities will come into its own when you're transferring text files.

The other common problem is line and paragraph endings. STs and IBM PCs insert both returns and line feeds to mark the end of a line but the Apple Macintosh uses only the carriage return to signal a new line – if you edit a text file originated a Mac, it will appear to be all on one extremely long line!

In general though, as long as you give some consideration to the format and understand the minor differences, there shouldn't be any real problems.

All zipped up

Occasionally you may need to transfer something like a scanned image that is just too big to fit on a 720k floppy disk.

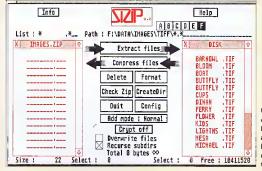
The best thing to do is compress the file using one of the standard archiving systems such as ZIP, LZH or ARC.

The best one to use is ZIP as the ST version has a neat user interface and features full compatibility with PKZIP, the PC standard. There is also a version of ZIP on all the

other major platforms.

You will need to ensure that you are using the latest versions of the programs and it is advisable to carry out a simple test run first to check for incompatibilities.

LZH is a good alternative but there are some incompatibilities, as early versions won't work with files compressed using subsequent versions.



Use ZIP to compress files before transfer – as long as you have a similar utility on the target machine!

Sound and vision

In many ways, transferring graphics and sound files is a lot easier than transferring text. Many painting, drawing and DTP packages will import and export graphics in formats that can be used on other computers.

The ones to look for here are the Macpaint, EPS and TIFF formats on the Mac, TIFF, EPS and PCX formats on the PC and the IFF format for the Amiga. If your target program won't import them directly, it's unlikely to cause a problem as there are dozens of utilities that will do the job.

Public domain catalogues are stuffed full of conversion programs. A good choice for graphics conversion is the shareware program GEMView, now up to v3.01.

It supports GIF, IFF, Imagelab, TIFF, BMP, GEM, ART, Tiny, Spectrum, Macpaint, Targa, JPEG, SUN, PAC, BMP, RLE, IMG/XIMG,



Paula is a shareware MOD file player

Vivid, ESM, PhotoCD, NEO, Degas and Doodle format graphics files so you shouldn't have much trouble converting your pictures! You can save files in most formats, including TIFF, Targa and GIF formats.

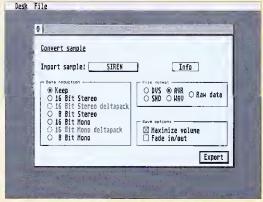
Sound is another up and coming area of file exchange, particularly with the coming of the Falcon and its built-in sampling and replay facilities. The major formats include the Midi file format, MID, the Amiga MOD format and the Microsoft Windows WAV format.

Standard MID files can be played on any machine that has the software to play them so you can swap your MID files with musician

friends who happen to own PCs or Macs and there are several utilities for converting the formats across to what has now become the standard on the ST, the AVR sample format.



GEMView is an ideal picture converter



525 converts sound from Windows WAV format to the ST's AVR format

FaST CUb

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screen resolutions (monochrome to 16.7 Million colours) and runs on all fully GEM-compatible graphics cards.

Other highlights: you can zoom in or out of the picture and still use all the drawing tools. PixArt has very creative block manipulation facilities that will be of great use to DTP users. PixArt is fully Faicon compatible. Wonderful, wonderfull is how the German Atari magazine TOS summed up its feelings about PixArt! Available: Now.

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hen the Falcon was announced, one feature which had musicians drooling was the prospect of direct-to-disk recording without the need for any additional hardware. The Falcon's built-in DSP (Digital Signal Processor) is capable of performing the fast data transfers required to do this.

DigiTape from the German Tradelt company, is the latest piece of d-t-d software to appear - and more, such as Musicom 2 and Cubase Audio, are on

The program is copy-protected by a dongle which actually plugs into the Falcon's DSP socket. This leaves the cartridge port free for a music software dongle. It requires a screen resolution of 600 x 400 and will run in mono or colour. Colour is much better although if you use more than 16 colours, it may slow down performance.

Operation is based around a series of windows which are selected from a GEM menu bar. None of the windows has a menu of its own - functions are selected by clicking on icons within the window which cause sub-menus to pop up. Only one window can be active at a time.

CREATE A TAPE

Before starting, you have to create a Tape by telling the program how many tracks you want, the sampling rate and how long the recording will be.

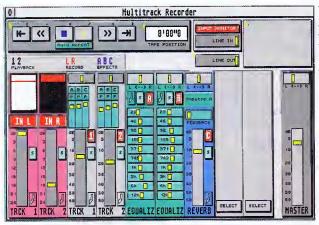
Something to check - there was a problem with this process with some versions of the Falcon's AHDI which controls the hard disk. These should have been sorted by now but do check with CGS before ordering.

You can record up to 32 tracks although you can only play back eight at once - a system the program calls virtual tracks. You can only record on two tracks at a time. You can link tracks into stereo pairs for editing.

You'll know that you need a large hard disk when you realise that a four-minute recording using four tracks will require 200Mb of disk.

DigiTape supports eight sample rates - 8.19S, 9.834, 12.292, 16.390, 19.668, 24.S8S, 32.780 and 49.170 kHz - which are determined by the Falcon's hardware. The most common d-t-d rates are 44.1kHz (used by CDs) and 48kHz (used by DATs) and these will be available with Tradelt's optional S/PDIF interface. This will bypass the Falcon's internal circuitry and offer higher quality recording. It will





The Multitrack Recorder page is where most of the work is done. This set up includes Record and Playback modules. two EOs and a reverb effect

lan Waugh takes a first look at Digitape a revolutionary tapeless recording system for the Falcon

cost around £300.

The Multitrack window is where recording takes place. It contains the usual tape transport controls, a master volume slider and nine channels or module slots. These form the heart of the DigiTape record and playback system because you can insert different modules into the slots depending on what you

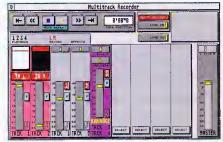
For example, there are Record and Playback modules which do as you would expect, plus Effect modules. Let's run through a typical recording session.

Let's say you want to record a signal in stereo. You'd assign two Record modules to tracks one and two to record the left and right signals. Using the Input Monitor, you can check the signal for volume. You can't overdrive

digital inputs like tape inputs the result is a very noticeable break-up of the sound.

After recording you can convert the Record modules into playback modules for checking. When you're satisfied you

You can burn author details into the file to help protect against any possible copyright problems



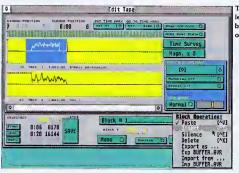
The infamous Karaoke Playback module will attemnt to remove the vocal line from a recording

can replace them with Playback modules

You can plug Effects into the playback chain (you can't apply effects during recording). DigiTape has seven built-in software effects - Short Delay, Long Delay, Reverb (containing 12 reverb types), ten-band graphic equaliser, Vibrato, Flanger, and a Noise Gate with Distortion - with the ability to load in more from disk.

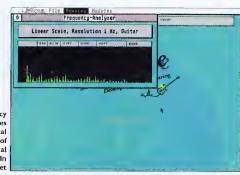
This makes the system quite openended and if DigiTape catches on, additional effects modules may appear from Tradelt or third-party programmers.

The effects are pretty good quality for a software implementation. The EQ in particular is very useful and can help compensate for some of the shortcomings of the Falcon's built-in audio circuitry. You can adjust the amount of signal sent to the FX with a volume send



The Edit window lets you perform block operations on your recording

> The Frequency Analyser gives you a graphical representation of the signat arriving at the In socket



control on the playback modules.

The nine module slots will probably be enough for stereo or even four-track recording, but if you want to use the program to its full ability by playing back eight tracks you may need extra slots.

These are supplied in a rather roundabout way by "hiding" existing modules and inserting other modules on top of them. It works but it's not very elegant.

Recording without the S/PDIF is from the Falcon's Mic socket although you can

also record from the left and right Master Output channels, allowing you to bounce tracks together. Unlike audio tape bounces, digital mixdowns avoid tape noise so the results are much cleaner

One of the playback modules is called Karaoke which tries to remove the vocal line from a recording. To do this, the recording must be in stereo and the vocals must be in the middle of the stereo field.

It then subtracts the right channels from the left channel, leaving the music in mono form on the left and sending the vocals to the great phase crossover in the sky.

The Track Edit window shows the contents of one or two tracks in waveform format, similar to the display you get with sample programs such as ST Replay.

You can perform cut, copy, paste, delete and insert functions on the tracks. You can import and export AVR files which provides compatibility with other Atari sample programs and offers an easy way of moving data around.

A rule above the edit window helps sync the recording to a sequencer, say, and DigiTape can transmit Midi clock and Song Pointers.

DigiTape's edit system works fine. It's rather like working with a large ST sample program in that the edits you make directly affect the recorded data. However, the vast majority of d-t-d systems use a system of cue sheets which involves non-destructive editing.

Cue sheets simply involves setting up a list of sections of the recording - or cues - which the program reads and plays back in the cue sheet order. The original recording is never altered which means you can create as many mixes as you wish and the original recording is always intact.

DigiTape has several more interesting features. The Effects Online Rack processes incoming signals in real-time. It's a little like a simplified version of the Multitrack window although it only has four slots and you can only install effects modules.

The Tape Label window lets you enter track names, track comments and other details about the song - a little like a notepad. However, you can opt to burn this into the data which will help prove ownership if you pen a number one hit and someone rips it off. Not that that sort of thing happens very often in the music business, of course...

The Frequency Analyser produces a graphic display of the frequencies arriving at the input and doubles as a guitar

BARELY ADEQUATE

The manual, alas, is a preliminary affair although registered users are promised a full version - whenever it may appear. But that's not much use to someone who has the program now and wants to use it straight away. Instructions are brief and barely adequate and there are no illustrations.

The program isn't difficult to use but you do need to read the manual in order to grasp the basics. DigiTape is by no means the only program with manual problems but when you're paying this sort of money for a piece of software I think you have a right to good documentation.

If DigiTape's asking price is a little high, a cut down version called DigiTape Lite (now where did they get that name from?) is available for £149. It has fewer tracks, fewer features and no edit facilities

Apart from the strange lack of cue sheets, DigiTape could do with a few more bells and whistles in the goodies department. Functions such as time stretching, fades, automated mixdown and so on would make it much more appealing.

This, in turn, would help the Falcon become established more quickly as a serious music and direct-to-disk recording machine.

Having said that, even many so-called pro systems (not running on the Falcon) don't have all the facilities they should. But the good news is, most of these facilities can be added with a software update.

CONVENIENT

One problem with current Falcon d-t-d systems is that they are unable to synchronise with a sequencer running concurrently on the Falcon (with the possible exception of Cubase Audio which still has to be evaluated).

This has to be the most convenient method of combining digital audio with Midi backing tracks although with the arrival of multi-tasking software this may soon become a reality.

In any event, users who already have a sequencer or who run one on an ST could continue to use it, upgrade to a Falcon and sync it to DigiTape.

With the promise of more software updates to come, DigiTape has the potential to become one of the premier d-t-d systems for the Falcon although it may be advisable to wait to see what enhancements are made before taking the plunge.

BOTTOM LINE **FEATURES** More features than D2D's Average Bad 4T/FX direct-to-disk but Appalling needs more to be a pro tool. FASE OF USE Excellent Good Easy to use once you know verage how but not helped by the Appalling manual. VALUE FOR MONEY Excellent Good Rverage Ouch! And if you want better Bad Appalling sound quality you'll have to budget for the S/PDIF, too. Supplier: CGS ComputerBild, 231 Northborough Road, London SW16 4TU Telephone: 081-679 7307 Price: £499

Configuration: Falcon, large hard disk



Yes, it's true! **More super Atari shows** are coming your way

Following the resounding success of our London shows we ventured out of the big smoke into Birmingham and Manchester – and met with a great response from Atari users and supporters there, too.

So now the show treks further north still. Those of you living in the Newcastle and Glasgow areas should look out for us on March 19 and 20 respectively. Keep your eyes peeled for more information in next month's issue, when we will be able to confirm these dates, the venues and provide other up-to-date information.

Each show will be attended by leading ST publishers and dealers offering the very latest software and hardware and some great bargains. We'll be there of course - Atari ST User and ST Review experts will be ready to answer your technical queries.

We'll be bringing a host of back issues at bargain prices, so you can catch up on any features or CoverDisks you may have missed. There'll be a special show subscription offer available as well. Remember to look out for more details in next month's magazine.



he Ultimate Virus Killer, better known as UVK, has to be one of the best supported pieces of software on the Atari platform - not only is it regularly updated as new and more devious viruses are discovered, but it gets faster and cleverer all the time.

Updates are generally released every three months but this time, with the jump to v6, the interface has been completely revamped and, perhaps more importantly, it has been redesigned to allow it to run as a desk accessory or from a command line as well as a normal desktop program.

Ultimate Virus Killer 6 is supplied on a single disk containing the program files and the manual in Ascii format. It works on any Atari including the ST/STE and Mega ranges, the TT, the Stacey and. naturally enough, the Falcon. Half a

get very few false alarms. One program it failed to recognise was Imagecopy, surprisingly enough, and the Outside virtual memory manager made it rather suspicious but it did recognise some newer utilities like Datalite, the hard disk compression program.

The lengthy statistics might seem rather daunting, not to mention meaningless, until you look at how the program works. The first and most obvious thing UVK does is to read the boot sectors of floppy disks.

It checks to see whether the boot sector contains executable code and uses a virus probability factor algorithm to assess whether it is likely to be a virus or not.

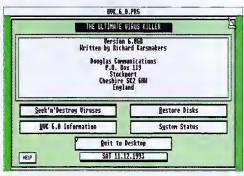
It can also compare the boot sector it has read with the 1,500 or so it "knows". Nine times out of ten the user

worked its way onto your software's original disks, even if you have made backups. You can happily kill viruses on the boot sectors of ordinary disks but most commercial games have their own special boot sectors and it is becoming increasingly common for serious software to do the same

If you do exterminate any lurking code, the chances are you'll render the disk totally unusable. UVK knows all about this and recognises a good number of game disk and demo disk boot sectors.

If you've done the damage, there's a good chance that UVK will actually be able to restore the correct boot sector and get you back into action.

Ultimate Virus Killer is without a doubt the best virus killer you can get and despite a small increase, you get an awful lot of peace of mind for your money.



The friendlier opening screen

IX IS e best

Andrew Wright cleans up with version six of the Ultimate Virus Killer

megabyte of memory is all that is required and the program works with multitasking operating systems like MultiTOS and Geneva, Being Falcon compatible, it also recognises and deals with high density disks.

The interface is a significant improvement over previous versions windows can be moved on large screens and the keyboard short-cuts are far more intuitive.

For those new to the virus killing game, there are some 40 context sensitive help screens to guide you through the process. Having UVK installed as a desk accessory is a great advantage too as you can call it at any time to check a dodgy disk or a suspicious file.

Its recognition statistics are positively awesome - it can recognise almost 1,500 different boot sectors and restore some 700 of them if they get damaged, 73 boot sector and five link viruses, 40 anti-viruses, six harmless file types and 137 "special applications".

The special applications are system enhancements and addons and range from proprietary hard disk drivers to replacement file selectors like Selectric and memory resident utilities like Mortimer. Some can look like viruses as they hook into the system but as UVK is so good at recognising them, you

gets a message identifying the boot sector but occasionally the boot sector isn't recognised and the program offers the option of immunising the boot sector or simply doing nothing (it may after all be an unrecognised game disk).

Other tricks include the ability to recognise some viruses that are sitting in memory waiting to pounce, repair damaged BIOS parameter blocks and scan whole drive partitions for link viruses attached to any file.

The author claims that UVK is the only virus killer that can recognise the new Beilstein virus but thankfully I wasn't able to test that claim. If you happen to have been infected by a virus it may well have

UVK Extensive System Check Blitter On 6008 Off Turbodos Off MultiTOS Off TOS 4.01 TOS date : 18-02-1992 GEMBOS 0.30 AES 3.31 ory configuration/trap contents System variable contents | Section | Sect Reverse address is suspicious; see manual for meaning of numbers Floppy, hard or RAMdisks attached No reset-proof programs in memory! No virus in keyboard processor! HELP

UVK's extensive system check

It's a special type of program that copies itself into the computer's memory and then onto the boot sector of floppy or hard disks or attaches itself to existing files (the so-called link virus). Some are more or less harmless, others can seriously damage your data by erasing files or locking up the system. One of the most common viruses is the Ghost virus - it doesn't do any real damage but if your mouse suddenly starts moving up the screen when you want it to move down and vice versa, there's a good chance you've got it!



ideoMaster has been available for the ST for some time now. Its ability to allow the user to record video images in real-time (complete with soundtrack) from any video source, as well as full screen colour images, has made it very popular.

Since HiSoft's acquisition of the package through their take-over of Microdeal, VideoMaster has been brought bang up to date with some impressive improvements.

The first noticeable update is that two versions are now available, one for ST/STE computers and one specifically for the Falcon, which is the one being reviewed here.

VideoMaster Falcon (hereafter simply referred to as VideoMaster) takes full advantage of the enhanced graphics and sound capabilities of the machine.

Unlike the original VideoMaster, which only grabbed in 16 levels of grey, the Falcon version ups this to a much more respectable 64 grey levels. This ultimately means higher quality and more life-like colour images.

There are basically two ways to capture images in VideoMaster. You can record a sequence of images in real-time (albeit in mono and only a quarter of a screen in size), or you can capture full screen, static colour images.

Grabbing a sequence of mono images allows you to create some excellent animations which can run at up to 25 frames per second for real smooth and life-like motion.

Even more exciting is the fact that you can also record the soundtrack from your video in glorious 16-bit stereo at a respectable 12.292kHz, thanks to VideoMaster's built-in sound sampling hardware.

Of course, the length of animation and

sound is subject to the amount of memory available in your Falcon. Ideally, at least 4Mb will be needed for decent length animations. With the 14Mb memory upgrades available, even more can be achieved.

Grabbing static full colour images is where the best results are achieved in terms of image quality. This is because VideoMaster can use the high resolution TrueColour mode for outstanding image quality using 32,768 colours at a resolution of 640 x 400 on a broadcast monitor, and 640 x 480 using a VGA monitor.

Alternatively, you can choose low resolution at 320 x 200 (broadcast monitor) or 320 x 240 (VGA). You can also select to grab in 256 colours instead of TrueColour which drastically reduces the size of the picture file and is faster due to less data having to be processed.

At this point it is worth noting that the VideoMaster package is available in a number of configurations. As well as the two versions for Falcon and ST computers, the Falcon version is also available in two flavours.

The particular package on review here is the VideoMaster Falcon RGB package, which includes an extra box of tricks called the Colourmaster RGB splitter.

Alternatively, the VideoMaster Falcon package is simply the VideoMaster hardware and software without the RGB splitter hardware, which retails for £99.95.

The electronic RGB splitter makes life much easier when creating colour grabs. It is an extra cartridge which effectively sits between the video source and the VideoMaster cartridge.

When VideoMaster grabs a full screen image from a video source, it actually

Darren Evans checks out VideoMaster Falcon RGB, a low cost multimedia package allowing full colour video digitising and 16-bit stereo sound sampling at once



Editing film sequences is very intuitive, with the ability to cut and insert individual frames

grabs three separate images in 64 shades of red, green and blue. These three separate images are then mixed within VideoMaster to create a full colour image.

In the VideoMaster package without the RGB splitter, you would have to manually grab the three separate red, green and blue images by selecting the appropriate buttons from the menu screen. Then you would have to merge the three images to get the full colour picture.

The RGB splitter totally automates and considerably speeds up this process by using electronic methods making the whole thing much easier and more convenient.

Setting up VideoMaster is extremely easy. The hardware consists of an Lshaped box which plugs into the Falcon's cartridge port. This box also includes controls for adjusting the brightness and contrast of the incoming signal as well as a phono socket for connecting your video source (VCR or camera).

PICTURE CONTROL

The RGB splitter itself also has a picture control for brightness and a phono socket to connect your video source to. It is important that you first check that your video source has the necessary video outputs for connecting to external equipment.

Most VCRs and video cameras have a phono Video Out socket (also known as an RCA connector), but some may have BNC or S-Video sockets, for which you will need suitable adaptors to connect them to the phono connections of the VideoMaster hardware. These should be available from most local hi-fi and video stores. With the

Colour trickery



First step in creating a colour picture is to grab the red image...

Then, a smat-

tering of the

final colour in

a cool shade of

blue and we're

almost ready...





Finally, all three images are merged to produce the colour picture

Next, throw in

image in a nice

a little bit of

the same

shade of





This picture of ST User H.Q. was created with VideoMaster Falcon RGB

VideoMaster cartridge, RGB splitter and video source all connected, it is time to run the VideoMaster software.

This is where all the fun begins. At the click of a button, you can record animations, complete with sound, from any of your favourite videos, or, you can embarrass anyone within range using your video camera.

I say embarrass because once you have an image of a friend, you can then load the image into HiSoft's True Paint art package which comes free with VideoMaster, You

Video Mono Colour Setup Low res High Res Red View Grab Auto Green Blue Load Save True colour 256 colour View pic Save Load Exit

As you can see, the high resolution colour mode produces some tasty pictures can use it to manipulate and edit any of the images grabbed using VideoMaster an awesome combination.

As mentioned earlier, grabbing both animations and still frames is simply a matter of clicking on a button. With animated sequences, each frame is stored in memory and the editing section of the software enables quick and intuitive editing of each separate frame.

The actual frames are shown as a "film strip" type display which shows five frames at once that can be scrolled through using a slider bar and scroll arrows

The audio capabilities which VideoMaster offers are equally as impressive as the graphics.

Sound samples can be recorded in 16bit at a fixed speed of 12.292kHz, which is not exactly the CD quality which the Falcon is capable of, but then again, the amount of memory which higher frequencies would consume would make for extremely short animations, even

An audio adaptor lead is supplied with VideoMaster and is plugged into the Falcon's microphone socket. The lead then provides two phono sockets to allow you to connect the audio output of the video source to the Falcon.

The lead also "steps down" the signal strength of an audio source coming from an amplifier, which left alone can damage the internal audio circuitry of the Falcon, so don't go plugging your audio leads directly into the computer!

When recording video images and audio simultaneously, VideoMaster has a preference screen which allows you to alter the amount of memory assigned to both the audio and video buffers.

GREAT IMAGES

Although VideoMaster can create great looking images, the quality of such images can be marred unless you have the right video equipment and leads.

If grabbing full colour images from a video, the VCR must have a good pause facility. When in pause mode, some older videos tend to have a jerky display with interference lines streaking across the picture. This will obviously make for a very poor quality grab. Such a problem may be overcome by adjusting the tracking of your video.

More modern videos which have digital tracking features or digital freeze frame are ideal in that they have very stable images when paused.



VideoMaster even allows you to select the screen size to accommodate those videos recorded in widescreen "letterbox" format

If you intend to record something onto a videotape and grab from it, be sure to record in short play (SP) mode, at least on VCRs with twin speed settings. Anything recorded in long play, when paused, will probably lose the colour giving you a black and white paused image.

Another important fact to remember is that the correct cables should be used to connect your video source to the VideoMaster cartridge.

Although a video lead is included, it is not very long. Most people will probably not have their VCR in close proximity to their Falcon, so you may well end up buying longer ones. If so, be sure to visit your local dealer for good quality video leads.

VideoMaster Falcon RGB is outstanding value for money which can produce equally outstanding animations and colour images. The manual is very well written and presented, covering everything from setting up the hardware to tips on how to get the best images.

Hopefully, if sales of VideoMaster are successful, HiSoft will contemplate doing an upgrade that will digitise in 256 grey levels for the ultimate in image quality.



Excellent Good Average Bad **FEATURES** The VideoMaster software provides lots of functions for easy Appalling edifing of both video and audio. EASE OF USE Excellent Good Average Bad Simple and quick to set up with excellent documentation Appalling containing lots of tips on how to get the best from the package. VALUE FOR MONEY Excellent

Great quality images at an affordable price, with the powerful True Paint art package thrown in foo. Awesome.

oduct: VideoMaster Felcon RGB The Old School Bedford MK45 5DE

Good Average Bad

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lier: Hi9oft

Greenfield

n original release DA's Vector quickly established new standards for graphics software on Atari computers: Indeed, J have seen a few hardened PC illustrators experienced in the use of the legendary Corel Draw go pale at watching some of the things it does.

Before looking at its latest incarnation, DA's Vector Professional, it may therefore be useful to remind ourselves just how revolutionary the original program

DA's Vector was the first outline art program on the ST/TT to use colour. Full 24-bit TrueColour - or 16.7 million colours - that is, more than the human eye can ever hope to cope with.

Even the humblest ST could take advantage of this, irrespective of its monitor display, provided it had a colour output device connected to it. Even more impressively, to my mind, was the way that DA's Vector crushed through the barrier that had traditionally separated vector from bit-image or pixel graphics - any colour picture could now be turned into the "fill pattern" of a vector object and thus breathe natural textures into the previously cold world of computer object art.

And all these colours and textures -

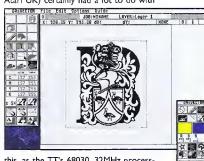


s bia brother

plus the text in PostScript or Calamus fonts - were available not only for static illustrations but animated graphics as well; the genesis of a completely new approach to the creation of cartoon films.

The success of the Atari TT (which was never seriously marketed here by Atari UK) certainly had a lot to do with

DA's Vector, widely acclaimed as the best outline art package for Atari computers, has acquired a Professional stable mate with much-enhanced capabilities. Something for Günter Minnerup to get animated about

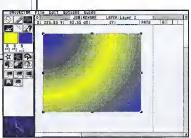


The autotracer can now handle mono images in the TIM format (conversion from IMG is provided for) - it works extremely well and is ideal for creating masks and fill patterns in addition to "ordinary" vector objects

this, as the TT's 68030, 32MHz processing power and colour VGA monitor provided a suitable platform for these new developments. By the same token, the graphics and

sound capabilities of the Falcon 030 were clearly the reference point for the development of DA's Vector Professional, since most of the further enhancements are targeted at the video production market. Above all, DA's Vector Pro is DA's Vector for animation artists.

The chief advantage of using vector graphics for animation is that it is not



The Area Fill menu has acquired several new capabilities, including the definition of vector colour graduations. The start and end colour as well as the graduation type are easily selected with a few mouseclicks

necessary to edit all frames by hand; the computer can do much of the work for

For many purposes, only a few keyframes need to be prepared by yourself, and if you place these at suitable intervals on the film strip, DA's Vector's animator will calculate all the intermediate frames by interpolation.

The new, professional version takes this a great deal further by implementing a number of powerful features - the camera is no longer fixed in position and size but can be scaled up or down to zoom in or out, and can follow a Bezier curve path for all or part of the film.

Since the multicopy function and the calculator are also available inside the animation editor, even the generation of keyframes can be much simplified by letting the program multiply an object, scale it, rotate it, cycle through colours and fill patterns, or apply various mathematical formulae for special distortion and projection effects.

Movie compiler now also supports sound tracks and the Player program is capable of rendering sound samples in AVR format.

The automatic fill pattern change in the multicopier is worth a special mention. As fill patterns can be pictures - mono, halftone or colour - the changing fill patterns generated by the multicopier can be individual frames of an already existing animation, provided these are available as single pictures with sequentially numbered filenames.

They can be assigned as fill patterns to objects of any shape, of course, and the multicopier enables you to enlarge, reduce, rotate or move them, making them fly through space, perhaps.

The possibilities don't end there, because the multicopier now also gives access to the calculator, so that the copies can be distorted in the process. The calculator in the Professional version features a special variable "I", to which individual pictures numbers can be assigned, thus giving very precise control over the effect of such transformations.

Using all these new options to their full potential requires some understanding of the processes involved and considerable practice if you are a newcomer to animated graphics.

Another major enhancement, the filter functions, are more intuitively understood by those who may not aspire to full-scale cartoon movies but are happy to produce impressive slide shows, perhaps for shop window or show display.

The filters resemble the fill patterns and the new filter dialogue is indeed very similar to the fill pattern dialogue. Two of the filter functions - Saturation and Luminance - work by gradually transforming the colours of a picture on one layer of the film track, depending on the filter picture chosen.

The Grizzle or Threshold filter fades in the picture in randomly distributed pixels, gradually getting denser until the full picture is visible.

There are many other improvements for those who use DA's Vector simply as an extremely powerful vector colour graphics tool without ever venturing into the world of animation.

At the input end of things, I have already mentioned the new ability to import mono pictures into the autotracer. These are now therefore also available as fill patterns in a much improved area fills editor. New icons offer graduated vector fills with a choice of algorithms, as well as so-called "blendings"

These produce smooth transitions between two or more subpaths in one path object: a minimum of nine and a maximum of 2SS intermediate paths, each representing a step in the transformation of, say, a triangle into a square. The program will interpolate not only the shape of the paths, but also their colours.

One of the most versatile functions in DA's Vector has always been the Bezier grid transformations, allowing you to project an object onto apparently 3D Bezier grid shapes. Some such Bezier grids are supplied with the program and could always be modified and saved by



the user, but now you can maintain several different Bezier grid libraries, much as you always could with object and path libraries.

Finally, on the output side, there is the long awaited PostScript driver. It would be nice indeed if there was also an option to import Encapsulated PostScript clip art, but PostScript export is at least one important step in the right direction of greater file portability, especially for those who need to employ output bureaux for high-quality hard copy of their artwork.

CLEAR IDENTITY

With the Professional version, DA's Vector is at last carving out a clear identity for itself in relation to the superficially similar DA's Layout (aka Didot Professional) from the same stable.

Both have very similar functions and user interfaces, but while DA's Layout is clearly aimed at the DTP market. DA's Vector Pro is unambiguously targeted at the video industry. The processor speed even of 68030 computers such as the Falcon and TT still imposes some restrictions: animations involving large colour formats and most of the new filters, for example, cannot be replayed inside the computer at real time and need to be recorded to video frame-by-frame.

Having quoted the upgrade manual, I must admit to being slightly puzzled by the very existence of such a manual. One of Digital Arts' proud achievements is the Knowhow on-line manual system,

which loads as a desk accessory and gives instant access to the relevant chapter of the documentation from anywhere within the program.

As it happens, I rather prefer a traditional handbook anyway, but since easy upgradability was given as one of the main reasons for the on-line system in the first place, I am nonplussed to find myself holding a laser-printed explanation of the new functions and reading an unamended on-line manual. This is irritating, even if it does not distract from the sheer power and quality of the software itself.

Walt Disney would have Rverage Bad Rppalling loved it! Excellent Foot Average Bad EASE OF USE As easy as animation could be expected Annallino to be. VALUE FOR MONEY Dirt cheap for the professional, affordable tor the amateurs. pliar: CGS-ComputerSild, 231 ough Road Northbor Norbury, London SW16 4TU Telephone: 081-879 7307 Price: £199 Configuration: All ST/TT/Falcon in any

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	Slideshower.
EALC 17	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

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EVIC 00	Car Dichuras in IDEG format, Formatic Parechale Lambale Marrandes ate

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FALC 9	- Grotesque (Excellent!), Gourad, Speeder, Plasma 30 & 50, Intel + morel
FALC 11	 Morphing demo requires 2 Meg memory + hard drive space. + 3 more!
FALC 27	 Left Donut by Griff (RGB), EKO (RGB · Outstanding music!), Big Digi.
FALC 96	 When Dreams Become Reolity (RGB), Warum (RGB), Inconvex (RGB).
FALC 97	 Fuji Ray animation - zipped requires 2 meg memary + hard drive space.

FALCON MUSIC RELATED PROGRAMS

FALC 7	- FoRtune for creating cites, Protracker 2, TCB Tracker, Desktracker 1,11,
FALC 17	- Winrec 1.35 (D2D), Wincut for editing Winrec samples, Hardchor (D2D).
FALC 29	Startrek Cites for Fortune, Dame Oigital Audio Multipayering Editor.
FALC 52	 System Audio Monager 1.1 - ossign samples to events, Digitape 2 demo.
FALC 68	- 49 Wav samples for System Audio Manager.

- Arafter 4 Way sangles for System Audio Manager.
- Arafter 4 Way sangles for System Audio Manager.
- Pratrocks 50Kh; modules: Come & Get me, Pugsy, Tipout, Hordcore etc.
- As abover: Feedand Oreans, Goodbye, Harry, Intro, Journal + 5 more.
- As oboyer: Watch Your Bass Spin, Boom And She Cums, Fin + 4 more. FAIC B3 FAIC 94 Mjuzakk - Huge sound player progrom. Zipped, expands to 2 meg.

FALCON GAMES

FALC 21	Humons Demo disk 1. Zipped, expands to 3 Meg. Disk 2 on FALC 22.
	Nethock 3.1.1 · 2 Meg memory+. Brilliant dungeons and dragons game.
FALC 103	Oxyd (excellent!), Des Lasers et Des Hommes (3D shoot em up), Mosters of
	Chaos (Dungean Moster clone), Tron, Ishar Editor, Mario Kart demo.

FALC 104 Spacolo (RGB) - great space shoot em up, Madtris (RGB) · crazy Tetrus!, Verticol Mayhem (RGB) · nice version of Columns.

FALCON UTILITIES

FALC 2	· Falcon Boot 1.2, Backward 2.23 (ST emulotor), New Depack, Text Files,
FAIC 15	Desk Copy, Deskpic 1.05, Sysinfo, Multi Dialogue, DC Xtract 2.1, Revive
FAIC 13	 45 assorted MiNT/MultiTOS utilities + extended colour icons. X Control 1.2. Clock 2.0. Edison screen saver, Mini FS 0.55, Mogic Boot
FALC 36	- RDE 3.1 Toswin 1.4, Lha 2.22, Zoo 2.1, Zip 2.3, Gem Bench 3.25, Good
FALC77	Backup 1.13, Boot Init 1.3, Ecopy 3.5, Fcontrol, Shbut 1.3 - Emocs 3.11, Everest 1.5, KM Term, Atamik 3.5, X-Menu 1.3, Profile 1.43,
TALC//	Rezfooler (run RGB stuff on VGA monitor), Fullres 1.01, Swobs

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HIGH RESOLUTION GAMES

Ł		
E	GAME 1	 Anduril, Eliminator, Golaxy, Gilgalad, Mini Golf, Bubble, Runner, Space Wor, Tetris, Play Thing, Once 'A King.
ľ		Wor, Tehrs, Play Thing, Once 'A King.
į	GAME 8	 Diamond (Boulderdash), Invaders, Macpan, Megaroids (Asteroids).
ŀ		Minefield, Missile, Murray, Solitair, Spreng.
į	GAME 28	 Payramid, Escape, Sokoban, Cube World, Battleships.
l	GAME 30	- Air Traffic Control, Go-Board, Munchers, Pong, Puz Puz, Trivia, Go-Up.
	GAME 33	- Balo (Excellent breakout game), Super Breakout, Baseboll.
	GAME 34	Pork 1 & 2 - spoof Zork Type adventure gomes, Enchanted Realms.
	GAME 38	- Net Hack v2.3, Scribble, Sherlock, Zorge, Checkers.
J	GAME 39	 Earmon Fantosy Role Playing Kit, DDST dungeans and dragons. Jeapardy, Clueso, Airline Manager, Locomotive, Bandwurm, Hextris.
	GAME 50	- Jeapardy, Clueso, Airline Manager, Locomotive, Bandwurm, Hextris,
	GAME 76	Hack & Slay Construction Set, Chess, Match-it, Crassword Editor 2.
	GAME 112	- Risky Construction Set, Roulette, Yatsy, Backgammon, Poker, Pai Gow.
	GAME 125	- Cyate Dave's Poker, Deena, Cribbage, Tectic, Fast Poker.
	GAME 168	Napolean - a 'Risk' style game of war and strategy.
	GAME 100	· Napalean · a kisk style game or war and strategy.

COLOUR GAMES · A Question of Snooker, Pinboll, Devestator, Roll n Nudge, Ranger.

Squidge, Fruit Machine, Pin Gome, Rocket Ball.

GAME 68

GAME / D	 ropeyed - a pap music game with an adult theme.
GAME B1	Battlescape, Blox - brilliant variation on the Tetris theme.
GAME 83	 Grandod & the Holey Vest - superb animated adventure. 1 Meg+.
GAME 94	· Hocman 2 (1 Meg+), Oungeans, Wheel of Money 3.
GAME 104	Blot! - A very nice version of Tetris. STE ONLY.
GAME 105	Infiltration 3D game, Ozone, Atomik Robokid. Great shoot 'em up.
GAME 117	Fast Freddy · lavely plotform game with superb graphics.
GAME 121	 Darklyte - great Isometric 3D war/strategy game similar to Hera Quest.
GAME 122	 Last Arcadian · fly around + blast everything, Hoverjet Simulator Meg+.
GAME 123	 Top Trainer (horses), Anarchy Academy - wreok hovoc in school. Baing.
GAME 128	 Dungean Lord - good Dungean Master Clone. Arch Mage-shoot em up.
GAME 131	 Gloss Buttock of Tharg - save the land from the evil buttock! - 1 Meg+.
GAME 132	 Psycho Pig - two disk platform game, very cute. £3.00. Grey Matter - difficult brain teaser from DCS, Splat! Picordy, Golactic.
GAME 135	 Grey Matter - difficult brain teaser from DCS, Splat! Picordy, Golactic.
GAME 136	Chaos 1/2 Meg version - classic spectrum game converted. 1 meg on
	GAME 146

GAME 149 - Gamodall - the seque to Gome 83, corres on 2 disks 1 Meg.+ £3.00.
GAME 147 - Brain Damage - the biggest, mod difficult brain teaser yet form DCS.
GAME 147 - Freeked Out - nice puzzle game, Shiftir (1 Meg.) - orother good puzzle.
GAME 148 - Operation Blue Survise 3 - mossive 3TAC adventure game. 1 Meg.+
GAME 150 - Course Angler 1.02 - go tackle histing on your 18 meg. 1 Meg.+
GAME 151 - Ming! - admillaot place mismallarial bias Sim Clyv & Sim Earth.
GAME 154 - Ming! - admillaot place mismallarially Suspicious Agranium.
GAME 155 - Hinee Realms of Suspicion - STAC adventure. Spaceboll - like be

GAME 154 - Mid. Zop - milly-fluyer caleroids. A Highly Suspicious Acquirum.

GAME 157 - B17 bomb the buildings, F16 - very good flight game, 8 missions.

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GAME 168 - B17 bomb the buildings, F16 - very good flight game, 8 missions.

GAME 164 - B10 by Muggluck - plottings the Joseph game, Demon - but like Venon.

GAME 163 - Iherene Park Mystery, Combot - lidl everything, Summaria.

GAME 163 - Iherene Park Mystery, Combot - lidl everything, Summaria.

GAME 163 - Chie Bosure Neutrollia - S1AC obenture with lovely grophics. I Mag,

GAME 165 - Guiz Moster - guiz tha chally has onswerable questord STE only.

GAME 169 - Megoline - four ployer Tron/Light Cycles, Insactoid, Cops in Robbers.

GAME 170 - Owige I comb (Innegr), Hysular - great new 3D CK game.

GAME 171 - Solfin brothers - the bast linvia game yelf Excellent presentation.

GAME 172 - Solfin brothers - the bast linvia game yelf Excellent presentation.

GAME 173 - Indensity - super a hordware strolling, seriens as und. STE only.

GAME 174 - Bludgeon I. 1a - fantary role playing with full colour graphics.

GAME 175 - Argon, Out, Codename Bomb, Pyramid, Disk Hunt, Stiret, Jurbo, Wor Abarroid, Bong 3, Bothe, Bellum, Guiz, Blaster, Chunis, Europe,

Pumber, Picker, Pinner Man, Ubool Yishian - 13 games!

GAME 180 - Mystr Well, Deep Loi, Frobath, Horris Goss Skiring, Howland House, Invaders, Magnedish, Mirco, Octopod, Ohello, Pox Man, Plant, Rockfull, Tox, Fennis, Wall Street, Zoppy

GAME 181 - Aaron, Mindworp, Violence, Ozone - 4 brilliant games!

BUDGIE GAMES - £2.75 EACH

BUGAM 83	 Cyberstorm, o very slick Defender game, really lost!
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BUGAM 100	- Clad Hopper - lovely version of Monic Miner from the B-bit doys
DUNCASI TO A	to 1 th at 150 th to 1 th to

BUGAM 104 - Jetpock - another faithful clone of a closic Specry game.
BUGAM 119 - Football Tactician - formerly a 220 release Excellent!
BUGAM 119 - Football Tactician - the Premier Leggue 92/93 sessar.
BUGAM 120 - Dungean - Iredifician Index & slash game written in Jolephin
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th!

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TRAC 113 - Boond And She Cumble Do 'a Trans Mer Know Whot To Say, STE only.

TRAC 110 - Empty Spoces, Taik yor Tym, Listen 2 The Rhythm, Hordcore, STE only.

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LANG 39 - The complete STOS source code to Pandard s Bow.

STOS 9 - The latest issue of STOSSER disk magazine, buthoid, articles, reviews.

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From there, several things can happen - if you have returned the goods for repair and they're still under warranty, it's well worth considering a visit to the premises and having a chat with the administrator or liquidator in person with the intention of laying your hands on your property. If When mail order companies take your money and don't provide you with the product you wanted, what can you do? Adam Phillips investigates

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Alternatively, you may have ordered and paid for the product and it's sitting in

the offices with your name and address on it. If so, there's a good case for claiming it.

If you paid by credit card for a price over £100, then it's possible to claim refund from the credit card company under the Consumer Credit Act. Though this is not a popular option in

the eyes of credit card companies, it's well within your legal rights.

If you placed the order through a magazine or newspaper and it displays either the Periodical Publisher's Association symbol (covering mags) or the Mail Order Protection Scheme, then you are covered for a claim.

Make sure that you do this within three months of the particular company's last advert appearing or this protection is rendered invalid.

Another qualm that can be a problem for customers is delayed merchandising. While in the strictest sense, companies should not take any money or cash any cheques until the order is fulfilled, it's not illegal so you have to approach the problem in a different way.

One of the first rules of home delivery is if you think you may be out when a parcel may be delivered, remember to give an alternative address such as a neighbour's or another time to drop by.

If you need your package sent as soon as possible, a useful piece of legal talk is to write to the company's head office to inform them that you need to take delivery by a certain date as "time is of the

Set a reasonable time for delivery such as a week to ten days and if this expires, you become entitled to a refund because the mail order firm is in breach of its

On top of this, you may also be entitled to claim reasonable compensation brought about by the delay especially if it ended in yourself buying the product from somewhere else in the meantime.

The final and most frustrating problem is when the parcel arrives at your house

CONTACTS

Advertising Standards Authority Brook House 2-16 Torrington Place London WCIE 7HN



Mail Order Protection Scheme 16 Tooks Court London EC4A ILB



Periodical Publishers Association Imperial House 15-19 Kingsway London WC2B 6UN

Mailing Preference Service Freepost 22 London WIE 7EZ

The 12 Commandments

While the majority of mail order companies conduct their business in a responsible and professional way, what is important to remember is that for someone to set up a company, place an advert in a paper or magazine and sell anything requires no mandatory registration or vetting by a governing body whatsoever.

For that reason, it's always wise to follow the basic rules for safe postal shopping:

- 1. When first clapping eyes on something you must have, check that the magazine/catalogue is up to date - it has been known for cheques to be sent off recently for offers that were made in 1989 - no joke.
- 2. Read the advertisement closely. Look for the small print so if anything does go wrong, you're fully aware of what the advert stated - delivery times, guarantees and so on. The publication you are ordering from is covered by the British Code of Advertising. The BCAP states that ads should give a delivery time and that it should be no more than 28 days.
- 3. Look out for extra costs postage and packaging can sometimes add a few pounds onto the overall price. Some companies include this in the advertised price, while others seem to forget until the bill arrives.
- 4. Check availability with a simple phone call. Sometimes the item you want may be out of stock so there may be a delay. Note down what they say.
- 5. Enquire about rules and costs before you place the order.
- 6. When you write off for the goods, remember to include your name, telephone number and address and make sure It's legible. Your number is important for any subsequent delivery problems that may occur.
- 7. If you wish to avoid mailshots landing on your doormat every month, tell the company that you don't want them to pass on your name address to any third parties. For extra security against junk mail, write to the Mailing Preference Service. Any company wishing to send direct mail should check the MPS register and exclude the people who have placed themselves on it.
- 8. Keep copies of the order with the date on it as well as any subsequent correspondence that may occur with the company. Make photocopies - computer files on disk are frowned upon by modern courts.
- 9. Make notes of any phone conversations you have with the mall order firm and the names of the people you speak to - this kind of information can be very useful as a legal weapon for evidence.
- 10. Never send money through the post the Post Office advises strongly against it and will not refund you in anyway If it is stolen or "misplaced".
- 11. Only send in the cash in the form of cheque or postal order when absolutely required to. Keep records of any financial transactions you make.
- 12. Contact the Advertising Standards Authority if all demands are ignored and if push comes to shove, consider legal action in a court of law.



and on opening it up enthusiastically, you realise to your horror that the wretched thing is faulty.

If the goods were damaged in transit then it's not the supplier's responsibility and therefore the matter must

be taken up with the carrier or Post Office (pop in to your local PO and get a claim form if this should

> If, on the other hand, the goods are defective, you have the same rights under the Sale of Goods Act as if you'd bought the item directly

over the counter. Contact the supplier as soon as possible - by law you are entitled to a full refund.

Phone and put your complaint in writing and send the product by recorded delivery so that the firm cannot deny anything at a later stage, and arrange for the return of the goods. Also make sure to ask for the return carriage charges to be reimbursed as well.

Finally, make sure that the product you receive fits the description given to you in the advert, that it is of merchantable quality and that it's fit for its purpose. Happy shopping.



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humble opinion).

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If you like a flutter on the horses then maybe white program can help to make it profitable! This is a Morting Demo. Full sersion available 60 assored samples (SPL Format) Fersibase, D84 - fronce good programs E-Plan Electronic Circuit Designer.) Diske Database (Laugh with us.) Quartet Samples II - (700x of samples) Film File Enquiry With this unusual Database you can keep track of all your favourite Films, Actors, Directors etc., Lots fo classic films ine. Data File (TVT filed PASAL; Chef Pharty)

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DEM-98 Star Wars Rap

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Wysted Years.

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ART & GRAPHICS

No. In STR's PD Top Ten! This prog will process your pics in ways you will not believe: Curve, Twist, Wave, Tube, Palette edit, Dither, Adnination and lar more. Uses Degas, Neo & Try format Paintux (full feature paint/bar prog) Kozmic (needs 1 Meg) Create fantastic, colourful psychodelic patterns on your ST & save to disk, PAD (Mono Art program) Absolutely the best Mono art package we've seen to date, many commercial features and the ability to hold many screens itt memory (f Mer min!

the ability to hold many extension
(1 Meg min)
GRA-27 Mono Ficures (43 high-res pics)
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add or alter it with A.1M.
GRA-14 A.1ST
Excellent Art & Animation package that
started life as a commercial art program

started life as a commercial art program costing £89.95!!

GRA-31 Kid Publisher & Master Doodle
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good starting points for the kids

Colourspace Colourspace
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GRA-33 Sprite Works Art Prog geared towards creation of Sprites for use in your own programs GRA-28 Hi-res Art

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with 4 modules

with 4 modules
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of PD., Shareware & Licenceware Here at Warpzone PDL we're always looking for new and innovative titles for inclusion in our library, if you

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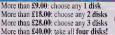
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hat a turn around! No sooner had I said "Send me more software", then a large amount materialised on my desk. Thanks for your response and keep sending it in - remember nothing is too strange or different for these pages.

Storm

Produced by: Fugitive Freelancers

Available from; LAPD Disk No L64

Alien Breed, the hugely popular arcade blast on the Amiga, was heralded by many as the definitive unofficial film licence of a particularly successful film that surfaced nearly six years ago in the cinema.

Now, several years on after drifting through deep space, the ST equivalent has been salvaged and created by Fugitive Freelancers. It's time to experience masses of aliens with dripping mucus-covered claws and blood dripping in slithery trails from their deformed mouths – the player's mission being to go aboard a mysterious space hulk and blow the living hell out of anything that moves.

On booting up Storm, the first things to strike you are the aurals and visuals which make up an attractive front end with well-used music, titles and the odd voice sample as well. As the mission screen is displayed, feelings of anticipation grow but as the playing screen appears and you move the joystick for the first time, these disappearquiddy.

The controls and character movement are both slow and sluggish as you move your marine down various corridors, passages, halls and rooms collecting ammo, medi kits, key cards for locked doors and credits to



Run down the claustrophobic corridors blasting anything that dares step in your way...

spend on the onboard computer to get extra weaponry. Aliens come at you thick and fast which may be great for an itchy trigger finger but after a while you can't help but feel that if the enemy had been in fewer numbers and more intelligent, it would have created a far more suspense-ridden atmosphere. Instead the herd of beasties run into your bullets only to be replaced by yet another flock a couple of seconds later.

The graphics themselves are effective, especially the aliens, but the main sprite and other alien form (some kind of dark smudgy thingy) are poorly defined.

Aurally, there are quite a few good spot effects with the shooting guns and the short screaming deaths of aliens. All the while, a rumble of music plays menacingly in the background.

It's hard to really recommend a game that has the potential to be superb but as Storm stands, Alien Breed enviers and Aliens fans will get a few reasonable kicks out of this blast fest.



Another roundup of all things PD, shareware and licenceware as reviewed by our resident word maestro, Adam Phillips... who?

Label Printer

Produced by: Brite Spark Software

Available from: LAPD

If you ever need a quick and efficient way of printing labels for various uses and have to type them on a typewriter or, unless you're a calligrapher, at worst, have to draw wobbly lettering to go on your home grown wine to give it that special amateur look, then Label Printer could be an end to those frustrations.

Presented in a simple and well laid out series of panels, all the user needs to do is type what they want to appear on the labels and let the computer and printer do the rest.

The program also features a personal database plus file to Brite Spark label printer converter to help with any compatibility problems. A useful and practical utility.



Labelling for all occasions with this handy utility

Kev's World

Produced by: Beni P.

Available from: Caledonia PDL Disk No GM 196

Kev's World, Kev's World, party time, excellent and other hip and happening phrases which will be regarded as relics by the time next year "schwings" round.

Kevin and his planet is actually a reasonable stab at a platform adventure. Guiding a distinctly nerdy character round the screen is the usual joyous affair – collect stars to amass a bigger score, avoid the assorted creatures and hazardous obstacles such as spikes and water, and pick up the occasional power-ups for invincibility, extra energy and more lives.

At the end of each long level through what appears to be a large castle, you're confronted with an especially nasty creature that is guarding your girlfriend. Defeat it and it's onto the next, more difficult stage.

The titles' main weakness is its speed which is always a little jerky but the actual gameplay is quite fun and challenging. The platformer market will always be with us and Kev's World joins the universe of commercial and PD jumping about programs confidently.



Excellent, schwing, take a pill, we're not worthy... and so on into catchphrase oblivion

The Glass Buttock of Tharq

Programmed by: Ian Scott

Available from: The Floppyshop Disk No GAM.4167c

Once upon a time, there was a queen who ruled over a peaceful and beautiful island. One day, she had an accident involving a goat, some soft cheese and an electric sander which resulted in her left buttock being sliced off.

All would have been well but a state of public panic arose for every time she tried to park herself on the throne, she promptly slid right back off – very embarrassing when entertaining foreign ambassadors.

Word was sent across the world for someone to help with the dilemma and in answer to everyone's prayers, a witch called Hazel offered her services.

On taking measurements, she began the painstaking task of recreating the perfect prosthetic buttock for her majesty.

After a few months work, Hazel produced her finished result - a bum cheek moulded in the finest glass crystal. Alas, to her horror, it was useless because glass is not the most ideal of materials to use for replacement limbs.

She was laughed from the courts and kicked out of the country but before she went, she bestowed the glass buttock with humungous magical powers...

Years later, after the queen's death, the buttock now rules with an



Choose from a wealth of celebrities and try to get Jeremy Beadle into a body bag...



Race across the island as Mr Bean and inspire men with your incredible social skills and charisma to join your cause

iron fist using its troops, the bum bandits (political correctness isn't the programmer's strong point), to marshal the harsh law of the land.

That was until one day, a group of television, film and rock stars decided they'd had enough and planned the overthrow of the glass buttock of Tharg...

And so begins the scenario of the latest game from the creator of the PD classic Grandad series, Ian Scott. Set on the island of Tharg, the player must move his 12 different characters round the map, visiting castles and recruiting men for the righteous cause.

Simply click on the person you wish to use from the selection screen and the action flicks to a first person view of the island. Then move through the Ishar-esque landscape with the intention of raising a large enough army for the destruction of the enemy's castle.

These 12 characters under your command however are not the usual stuff of heroes - ranging from the likes of Mr Bean, Alan B'stard MP and Kim Basinger to Jimi Hendrix, Jeremy Beadle and that old man, Grandad - all given their own portraits for swift and recognisable identification and all ready to die for the cause.

The game is very much in the vein of the old Mike Singleton classic, the Lords of Midnight on the Spectrum, but with simpler gameplay.

It's all very simple and relatively untaxing but quite addictive. The starstruck heroes are purely superficial and it would have been nice to see more to the title especially when put next to the Grandad series but the Glass Buttock of Tharg is well worth taking a look at for something a little bit different to pass the time of day.

Long live King Buttock!

Financier 2

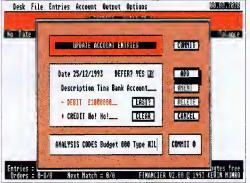
Programmed by: Kevin Munro

Available from: Caledonia PDL Disk No AU-218

This comprehensive utility helps the user to keep track and in control of their finances. While some of us are sticklers for keeping tabs on our accounts, others have enormous difficulty in being motivated enough to keep hold of every little receipt that can then be put into storage with all the others from the last ten years.

Financier 2 is ideal for keeping an eye on your pennies by keeping the records on disk with the ability to store hundreds of different entries. With the fast search and personalised statements options, this can be very helpful for small business use and customers accounts.

Also included is a card file program to organise business cards or addresses for the home. It's possible to import or export files to your spreadsheet or database because the utility has the same data file that your mail merge program has. Financier 2 is well worth taking a look at for a cheap but effective budgeting tool for your ST.



Get organised with Financier mark 2...

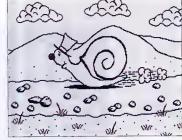
The Never Ending **Colouring Book**

Programmed by: Tony Gooding

Available from: Merlin PD Disk No MPD1660

Computers are gradually taking over the world. They've steadily replaced most things practical from the typewriter to people's jobs. Now, the colouring book has been made redundant by this rather simple but rather good program from Tenesoft Productions.

No longer are crayons and paints needed for the children to turn the living room into a post-modernist mess worthy of a mention on the Late Show - now the 5T provides preset pictures with no colour and a painting palette for kids to stick their technological paintbrush and pencil into. By simply clicking on the colour you want and selecting the Fill option, shapes can be coloured and even



changed or started from new with the drawing button.

The whole package is very simple to use and comes with ten pre-drawn images from Donald Duck to a racing snail. The only problem is that some children might find creating a solid shape with the pencil utility a little



...and after

difficult because above a certain speed, the line breaks up. This makes filling in impossible because it spills out over the rest of the screen.

Other than this, the Never Ending Colouring Book is a user friendly bit of fun and most importantly, unmessy "edutainment" for young sprogs.

Tri-Heli 2

Programmed by: Janet Dean & Cathy Steinbach

Available from: Emerald City Disk No 5G74

5trange games sometimes surface in the public domain which would probably not make it to the screen in these days of large corporations producing more and more mass market formula driven titles.

Less risks are being taken to ensure that sales targets are met and the development budget is justified. This attitude is very similar to the film set up in Hollywood - if it doesn't have tried and tested idea/star/plot then the money men get itchy feet.

Like the independent film-makers in the rest of the world who are prepared to take a gamble, PD is prepared to experiment a little as well and unlike the indies, have the advantage of little or no overheads and the ideal environment of being able to do what the hell they like.

Tri-Heli 2 is an example of a odd mix of game styles taken from the like of Chopperlift and Boulderdash where a helicopter must be guided over a flat landscape. Under the ground, diamonds sit waiting to dug up or in this case, blown out of hiding with bombs.

Using a limited amount of ammo, the player must collect two per level and return each in turn to the base. While this is going on, an enemy plane flies overhead, and will either dropping a huge ball of dirt to cover the blowhole and destroy any flying mechanism that may be

hovering in it, or place a turret on the ground that fires a laser beam directly at the unsuspecting player.

As each stage prog-resses, the land becomes higher and higher, making the gap between the hostile craft and the shafts to the jewellery smaller and therefore the situation more vulnerable.

On first playing, the graphics put you off because of the crude, 5peclook. trum Under-neath the surface though, lies an addictive and frustrating program where that one more go gradually creeps up on you as you and to try progress to the next level. A curious and original title but one well worth taking a look at.



Shoot the ground, grab the diamond and get out before you're trapped by dirt

Freaked Out 2

Programmed by: Chris Sharp

Available from: LAPD

Fans of Oxyd have probably finished the highly regarded game months ago and are waiting for the next instalment with baited breath.

Until it hopefully surfaces, Freaked Out 2, while not being of the same classic stature of the aforementioned, is still a reasonable stab at puzzle-oriented arcade action.

The plot revolves round your spaceship that has broken down and subsequently hurled into some sort of strange world where you must guide your ship from the start position to the exit across the other side of the screen to escape onto the next level, taking another step on the road to freedom. Between you and this freedom are various floortraps, directional dictation arrows, creatures from other



Rush from start to finish before the time limit runs out

dimensions and other assorted baddies. The game is relatively good fun if decidedly rough round the edges when compared to the professional presentation and feel of Oxyd. For the time being though, this will have to suffice until something better comes along.

Lay your hands on me...

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Emerald City PO Box 28 Southampton 59 7HS Tel: 0703 672577

Floppyshop PO Box 273 Aberdeen AB9 85 Tel: 0224 586208

LAPD 80 Lee Lane, Langley Heanor DE75 7HN Tel: 0773 605010

Merlin PD I I Grange Close, Minchinhampton 5troud GL69DF Tel: (0453) 882793

Power PD 3 5alisbury Road Maidstone ME14 2TY

hen we last reviewed EdHak. then at v2, about eight months ago, we found it below par in several departments. Now with the release of an improved v3, most of the problems seem to have been addressed, making it look pretty good value for such a versatile utility.

So just what does EdHak do? It is a small utility program that can be used for editing just about any type of file from plain Ascii text files such as README documents to binary files like programs and resource files. It doesn't stop there though - EdHak will also read disk sectors on hard and floppy disks and even let you hack into your ST's internal memory, byte by byte.

The program comes on a single disk with a useful S0-page AS manual and several other utilities. The manual is packed with information on hacking into

boot and other disk sectors and areas of RAM and contains comprehensive information on Ascii codes and the Atari character set

It contains a full list of keyboard short-cuts and has a useful appendix dealing with importing and exporting files from other computer platforms.

EdHak works either as a program which can be run from the desktop in the normal way, or as a desk accessory. Obviously desk accessories are far more flexible, as they can be called up from within other programs but there is a memory overhead to be taken into

As EdHak uses up some 116k in its full configuration, it takes quite a chunk out of a 1040 ST or even a 2Mb machine.

However, there is a cutdown version called Diary supplied on the distribution disk that takes up only 22k.

Where v2 had a strangely inflexible windowing system, either full or half screen, the new one has a fully resizable and movable GEM style window with a horizontal scroll bar which is a big improvement.

Unfortunately the rather clumsy menu still exists. Instead of having several menu headings in the usual GEM style, there is a single menu that drops down to reveal a double column of 16 options.

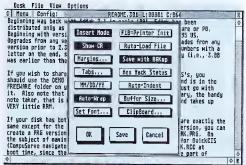
Selecting these brings up relevant dialogues but this rather bizarre nesting system means that accessing some important functions, such as font and buffer size or editing mode, takes at least three or four mouse clicks.

What's more, there's a distinct tendency to miss the EdHak menu and catch the GEM desktop ones instead which is far from merely irritating - it's damned annoying.

Other major changes include the ability to use smaller versions of the system fonts, extra block handling operations, enhanced macro selection and scores of

Polishe text too

Andrew Wright looks at the new EdHak, a commercial text editor which has recently jumped forward in leaps and bound



EdHak can be configured in dozens of ways



Online help is always available

minor improvements and bug fixes.

Block handling changes now include support for columns, the ability to apply quotes to a marked block and a complete set of dedicated drop down menus for block operations.

Perhaps EdHak's most intriguing feature, which now works in the program version under MultiTOS, is the ability to send text to the keyboard buffer and hence on to another application using its "kwiksend" facility.

Any size block can be sent in this way and it works with many programs including That's Write, Firstword Plus and PageStream.

EdHak has three standard modes. Text mode is for everyday use as a text editor and programming tool.

It could easily be used for word processing, as it has all the familiar features like search and replace, word wrap, block cut, paste and delete and up to ten 80 character macros corresponding to each of the ten function keys.

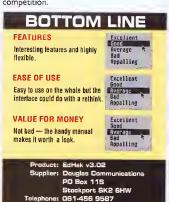
In hack mode, all the characters are shown in lines 64 characters long and in hex mode they are displayed in the same form in hexadecimal equivalents. Placing the cursor on any character reveals its Ascii code in the status bar that appears in the window bar itself.

The number of the byte or character in the file is also shown, so you can easily find, for example, the 99th byte in a file by a simple trial and error process.

Another strength is the program's ability to handle files of almost unlimited size its intelligent loading routines will read part of a large file into memory and buffer the rest on disk until it is required. In this way you can edit and hack big program or data files on a standard S20 ST.

If all you need is a cheap and cheerful way of editing Ascii files, there are much cheaper alternatives in the public domain but if you need more - such as the ability to hack into your ST's memory, examine disks and even co-operate with other programs such as QuickCIS and STalker, EdHak 3.0 represents much better value than its predecessors.

It can hold its head up in a crowded market and it even works out cheaper than registering some of the shareware competition.



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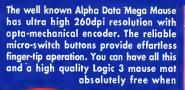
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Gamer, Atari ST User November 199



few months ago, multitasking on the Atari ST was limited to a few simple task switchers. But then, together with Atari's MultiTOS, third-party developers also joined the arena.

Mag!x (sic), or the Multi Application Graphics Interface eXtension, actually pre-dates MultiTOS and can lay claim to being the first multitasking system for the ST - if we ignore the simple task

Now at v2, it adds a number of new features and is more compatible with Atari's MultiTOS. However, before we plunge in, a few words about multitasking in general, since there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding of the subject even among assorted so-called Atari experts.

There are basically two types of multitasking: pre-emptive and co-operative. The latter requires programs to behave and co-operate with each other. Preemptive, on the other hand is much more rugged and multitasks whether the programs want it or not.

Mag!x 1.0 was born as a co-operative system which would multitask only when a program issued a GEM call. Mag!x 2.0, however, has grown into a full-blooded pre-emptive multitasking system where



Two CPX modules used to configure Mag!x

to boot from. This can be either your hard disk boot partition or a floppy. Next, you can set the default directories for ACC, Auto-APP and scrap files.

If you leave the ACC setting empty, the system will load accessories as usual from the root, but it's much neater to have all your accessories in a folder.

Auto-APP folder is where all GEM applications you wish to run at boot time are stored. When Mag!x comes up all these application will then already be up and running as separate tasks. If you leave this setting empty no APPs will be run at hoot time.

If after installing Mag!x you later wish to run your old GEM setup again simply hold down both Shift keys during the boot procedure and Mag!x will not come

Various Mag!x presets and configura-

tasking TOS but reveal their latent bugs in a multitasking environment.

Smart redraw is exactly that, it avoids unnecessary GEM redraws and so speeds up screen display. The screen is further accelerated by turning off the grow/shrink box animation effects. You can also change the way menus appear by choosing between GEM drop-down or pull-down menus.

Actually, these are not real Mac-like pull-down menus but click-down menus. When this mode is on the menus will not drop down if you accidentally move the mouse into the menu bar area, instead you must click on the menu before it drops down.

TSLICE.CPX let's you set the duration of each time slice in milliseconds (from 5 to 50) and the ratio of foreground to background processing time (from 1:1 to 1:64).

Default settings are 10ms and 1:32. The higher the time slice value the less overhead there will be but the multitasking will not be as smooth.

The lower the ratio, the more equally will the time be divided up between foreground and background tasks. So at a ratio of 1:1, Mag!x will behave like any other pre-emptive operating system.

the total available time is sliced up into (you guessed it) "time-slices". These units of processing power are then divided up among various programs.

There is a twist in Mag!x, however, because it doesn't work with priorities like MultiTOS where you can individually set the fixed amount of time each program gets.

Instead, Mag!x employs dynamic prioritisation. In other words the system adapts itself dynamically to user actions. This results in immediate response and background tasks are executed only when there is time.

Sometimes, during heavy user activity, the background tasks will be forced to execute so that they don't go completely to sleep but, in general, Mag!x continues to favour the user for as long as possible.

Because of this Mag!x feels faster than any of the competition. This is convenient for the typical user but the experienced programmer might prefer the freedom of setting the priorities individu-

The focus on speed is also reflected in the fact that Mag!x wastes less than one per cent overhead for multitasking - that is to say, it's almost as fast as a singletasking system. Actually, multitasking Mag!x is faster than single-tasking GEM!

To install Mag!x simply run the installation program. The program can run with a minimum of IMb of memory but as with all multitasking, the more you have the better.

In the installation program you can select the default resolution and where

Now you can switch from program to program in an instant, navigating with ease and efficiency, thanks to Mag!x, a sophisticated third-party multitasking

desktop. Don Maple waves his wand

tions are performed either in the MAGX.INF file or using the two supplied CPX modules which require you to have XCONTROL installed on your system.

MAGXCONF.CPX configures various system features. Fastload invokes fast floppy access. TOS compatibility takes care of programs which run OK in single

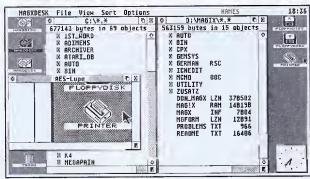
Finally, in this CPX the user can also turn off pre-emptive multitasking completely and run Mag!x as a co-operative system.

MAGX.INF file allows you to set all of the above and much more such as environment path, shell defaults and font defaults, to name a few. The commented listing explains all individual setting in detail.

MAGXDESK is the default Mag!x replacement desktop. Mag!x can handle up to 64 windows. Two features stand out in a Mag!x window: the backdrop button used to push a window/task into the background, and - a more cosmetic feature - the dot in front of executable files which makes them stand out nicely.

Clicking on the greyed-out area of a window's horizontal bar shows amount of free space on that disk/partition. MAGXDESK also supports movable alerts and keyboard short-cuts both within dialogue boxes menus. TOS or TTP

programs automatically put into a window so that the Desktop is not disturbed. This task is



Default Mag!x Desktop called MAGXDESK running multiple applications

taken over by the VT52 program which has its own menu bar and opens the window within which the TOS program

However, because all of this requires more work, TOS/TTP programs run slightly slower in a VT52 window.

Switching between tasks is done by clicking in the upper right corner of the screen. A "secret" menu then appears listing all tasks with a checkmark next to the currently active one.

This is similar to the way tasks are activated under MultiTOS where they are listed underneath accessories. However, in Mag!x this menu also has options to launch new applications and to tidy up the desktop if it's been destroyed by some rude program.

You are not limited to MAGXDESK, as the system is capable of running other replacement Desktops, the most popular of which seems to be Ease, by

Vial

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Mag!x is particularly attractive for programmers as it offers a number of improvements and features over the standard TOS, and yet to a large extent is MultiTOS compliant. There is also a C library on disk to take advantage of these new capabilities.

To get an "under the hood" look at multitasking press Ctrl-Alt-Esc to invoke the task manager which lists all currently active programs. Each line shows the application ID and name, its state ("ready", "waiting" or "running") and what particular event it is waiting for (all possible GEM events are shown), as well as the amount of memory occupied. The tasks can then be manipulated by, for example, freezing them or freeing them up.

program can be assigned a different amount of memory.

One important facet of multitasking is the ability to "talk" to other tasks. Unfortunately the only way to do that under Mag!x is via the Clipboard. Other more sophisticated ways of interprocess communication - such as semaphores

and pipes in MultiTOS - are at this time not available, although they are under development.

The other important facet of multitasking is memory management as provided by the (Paged PMMU Memory Management Unit). MultiTOS supports it while Mag!x doesn't.

PMMU is a piece of hardware (either as a

separate chip or incorporated in the main processor) that "watches" over programs and only allows access to a program's own memory. This prevents programs from running wild and crashing the whole system. However, this applies only to machines with a PMMU such as the TT.

Both BIOS and XBIOS under Mag!x are re-entrant, as is the AES. That is to say, any system call can interrupt any other system call. This can carry on for as long as there is stack space.

New Mag!x AES functions correspond to all of the new MultiTOS functions and more. Programs can be invoked by other programs and run in parallel. Other AES improvements comprise new object types.

The Mag!x manual is very good especially when compared to anorexic MultiTOS documentation. The first half of the Mag!x manual explains the installation and usage of supplied programs.

The second half, the reference section, is especially attractive for programmers as all new routines and improvements over old system routines are clearly explained with examples.

So how does Mag!x measure up against the competition? Geneva as a cooperative system is on the outset inferior to a pre-emptive system. It's also in its early development stages while Mag!x 2.0 has been around much longer and is very stable.

The comparison with MultiTOS is closer and also more important. The biggest drawback of Mag!x is that it does not run on the Falcon. However, the

programmers are hard at work even as we speak to rectify this.

There are also other features of MultiTOS not available in Mag!x (again under development) but Mag!x also has features not available under MultiTOS.

The biggest plus is its speed. It's like running an accelerator and getting the multitasking thrown in for free. This makes it particularly attractive for owners of older and less powerful STs on which MultiTOS is so slow it's almost unusable

And in Germany, Mag!x is quite popular, and Mag!x-awareness is a must for



any new application programs being developed today.

Mag!x version 2.0: a new powerful multitasking system from Germany

Desktop menu functions at a glance

Application Systems of Heidelberg.

There are several utility and demo programs supplied with Mag!x. The demos include a clock and magnifying glass, which are a very good way of demonstrating multitasking at work.

Mag!x has its own icon format so an icon editor is provided to create and customise your own icons. A whole myriad of default icons are included as are additional programs for conversion between RSC and Mag!x formats.

A comprehensive and powerful CMD command shell has over 30 built-in commands as well as a bunch of external commands provided in the BIN folder.

There are also a couple of memory management utilities: MEMEXAMN shows all memory segments with their owners and LIMITMEM sets the maximum available memory to a program. And unlike MultiTOS, under Mag!x each



Pressing Esc-Control-Alternate invokes Mag!x' task manager



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After many years supporting the Atari ST, Floppyshop were the first company to offer PD and Shareware for the Falcon 030. Unlike some PD Libraries who advertise Falcon software and copy the disks on PCs, we have had a Falcon for over a year and actually take the time to test the software on our machine, ensuring a professional service all round. Both our catalogues are currently the most comprehensive available from any supplier. Over the coming months, our support will further extend into several new commercial releases of our own, all of which will be compatible with the new machine. We also have Falcon specific software under development. This in no way lessens our commitment to our ST and STE customers. We remain firmly behind the entire ST range. Our catalogues are disk based and simple to use. It has a powerful search facility and can output to printer if required Floppyshop are also distributors of the Budgie UK Licenseware range. For a free copy of either catalogue dask onstantiation the Budgie of Ecclisewate range. Tot are copy of either catalogue, take, send us a blank disk with a note of your name and address, stating whether you require the ST or Falcon catalogue. Alternatively you can send a Cheque or PO for 80p and we'll supply the disk. Please make Cheque or PO (UK currency only) payable to Floppyshop. Major Credit Cards welcome. UK Postage FREE, Overseas Postage to: Europe £1.00 per order, Rest of World 10% of order value (minimum charge £2.00).

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ChromaStudio 24 - The Ultimate Graphic Tool for your Atari Falcon, is in the final stages of development. It will set the standards that others will follow, in art, animation, morphing and image processing, making it the most all encompassing program of its kind on any computer. Chroma is expected towards the end of the year, watch this magazine for

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ots to do this month, and all about dialogue boxes! Firstly, load your RCS (Resource Construction Set) into your ST. If you don't have an RCS, get one - any will do. I used a public domain program to build the dialogue box on the CoverDisk.

read the OTHELLO.RSC file on the CoverDisk into your RCS. If you're using it, it will also read OTHELLO.DEF, to assign symbolic names, otherwise your documentation will explain how to assign names, and later on I'll explain why you'd

The first thing you'll see is an icon representing a dialogue box. Doubleclick on it and the new Othello dialogue box will be displayed.

The box was built by moving items from the parts box, stretching or shrinking them, putting them where I wanted them to be, then changing their attributes by double-clicking on the object. The trick lies in knowing what the attributes are and what you can do with them.

A dialogue box consists of a tree - a hierarchy - of OBJECT structures. The root of the tree is the box surrounding

the dialogue, and its children are the OBJECTs which lie within that box - buttons, strings, and the rest.

Any of these children can also have children - all the items inside them - and so on. All OBJECTs which lie entirely within another are its children - the grandchildren of that OBJECT's

This can get pretty complicated, and that's why you're using an RCS to build the dialogue box - it takes care of the details, leaving you to concentrate on designing your box.

There are eight different

kinds of OBJECTs available for your dialogue box: boxes, boxchars, buttons, strings and TEDINFO structures. For now, we'll ignore the remaining three icons, images and user-defined objects.

Boxes are just rectangles on the screen, which may or may not be actually drawn as boxes. If you examine the attributes of a box, such as the one encompassing our Othello dialogue, then you'll see an attribute, Thickness, which can be adjusted to set the thickness of the line which outlines your box.

If its thickness is zero, your box will not be drawn on the screen, but simply groups together a lot of other OBJECTs as its children.

A boxchar is a box with a single character displayed at its centre, while a button is a box with an entire string displayed at its centre. And a string, of course, is just a text string displayed in your dialogue box. Finally, a TEDINFO

Roy Stead opens up a dialogue and starts to make things happen with his Othello program



letters and space; n for any letters, numbers or a space; F for all valid filename characters plus ?, * and : ; p for all valid filename and pathname characters plus \ and : ; P for all valid file and pathname characters plus ?, *, \ and :; and, finally, an X permits anything to be typed at that position.

One word of warning: If the first character is an @ symbol, then the TEDINFO will be displayed as if blank regardless of what comes after it (useful for password entry).

From EDITABLE, we can go on to the rest of the flags which can be associated with any OBJECT. And remember the "any" in that sentence.

If an object is selectable then it will be inverted when the user clicks on it, and have its state set to selected. Clicking on it again will reverse the action.

If the EXIT flag is set then the dialogue box will terminate when the user clicks on that object and the object - if it's a button - will be drawn with a doublethick border. But, remember, the user can only really click on the object if it is also selectable.

The TOUCHEXIT flag also causes the dialogue to terminate when the OBJECT is clicked, but doesn't provide the double-thick border to a button. TOUCHEXIT also offers another feature, which is dealt with later on.

If an OBJECT has its DEFAULT flag set then it's drawn with a treble-thick border. The DEFAULT object is the one

structure. These are used in our dialogue for the player's names, and are a special kind of string which can be drawn in any colour or different fonts, and positioned to the left, the right or centred within a box; the thickness can be set just as with any other box.

If the EDITABLE flag is set on a TEDINFO structure, then the user will be able to edit the text inside it when the dialogue box is in use.

Incidentally, the Template field of a TEDINFO is what is displayed in it when there is no text at that point, while the Validation field is used to set the sort of characters which the user is able to type at that point in the string.

Characters which can be used for this are 9, which allows only a digit from 0 to 9 to be typed at that position; A, which allows only upper-case letters and spaces to be typed (a allows any letters and spaces); N for numbers, upper-case activated by pressing the RETURN key, as well as by clicking on it.

To turn to object states: Aside from SELECTED, which I've already mentioned, states available are CROSSED, CHECKED, OUTLINED and SHADOWED.

These are fairly self-explanatory, being concerned with the object's appearance only. The final state, DISABLED, causes the object to be shown greyed out, indicating that it is not available for use. When setting DISABLED, however, remember also to switch off the SELEC-

An object's flags are held as a BitMap in an int, ob_flags, in that OBJECT's structure. Its states are held in the same way in the field ob_state, which is also an int. If an OBJECT has no flags set, or to switch off those already set, use the name NONE. The equivalent symbolic >

name for states is NORMAL

We've mentioned all of the states now, and all bar one of the flags. The

final flag is called RBUT-TON, for Radio Button, and is named for the station-selection buttons on a radio which, when you push one in, all of the others pop out so that only one is switched on at any one time.

Radio buttons are used in three places in our Othello dialogue, and they are set up quite easily - the group of radio buttons are all gathered

together as the children of a single box, and each has its RBUTTON flag set. GEM itself takes care of the fact that only one is to be switched on at any one time.

We could talk for hours about OBJECTs, but the best way to learn about them is to play with the different attributes from inside your RCS. For now, we'll move on to how to make use of a dialogue tree once you've saved it out as a .RSC file.

When you save the dialogue, you will notice that a header file with the same name is created. This contains the symbolic names - which you assigned to the objects - to be used to refer to the different items in the box. The first of these we're interested in is the name given to the box itself.

But the first thing to do is to load our .RSC file into our program. We do this by calling rsrc_load() with a single argument - a string containing the name of the file. If there's an error, zero will be returned, otherwise the file loaded OK and we can proceed.

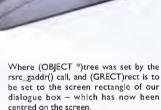
Before our program exits, incidentally, we'll have to make a call to rsrc_free() no arguments - to free up the memory taken up by the .RSC file. All of this is done, in Othello, in the GRAPH.C file.

When we come to use the dialogue, we need to call rsrc_gaddr() to find out the address of its OBJECT tree. This function takes three arguments. For simplicity's sake, you can always use the symbol R_TREE for the first argument.

The second is the name given to the dialogue box's root object (in this case, OTHELLO), while the third is a pointer to an OBJECT pointer. After the call, the OBJECT pointer will be set to point at our dialogue box's object tree, which is a simple memory block just like any other. This, and all that follows, can be found in DIALOG.C on the CoverDisk.

After all that we've covered, actually executing a dialogue box is a piece of cake. The first thing is to make a form_center() call, like so:

form_center (tree, &rect.g_x, &rect.g_y, &rect.g_w, &rect.g_h);



The next stage is to make one or two form dial() calls. The first uses the symbol FMD_START and is mandatory. This is used to tell GEM to reserve an area of the screen for our box.

The second - using FMD_GROW - is optional, and simply draws a Zoom Out box from the centre of the screen to where our dialogue box will be.

form_dial() takes nine arguments. The first is the symbolic name mentioned above, the following four are all going to be zero, and the final four ints make up a GRECT for the screen rectangle to affect. So:

form_dial (FMD_START, 0, 0, 0, 0, rect);

will reserve the screen rectangle described in (GRECT)rect, ready for our dialogue box. Once we've finished with our dialogue box, incidentally, we make one or two more form dial()

The first, this time with the symbol FMD_SHRINK, is optional - drawing a shrinking zoom box. The second - using FMD_FINISH - is mandatory, and restores the rectangle used by the dialogue box for the use of the rest of the GEM system, automatically sending redraw messages to any corrupted windows.

In between the form_dial() calls, we

want to first draw our box and then execute it. The first is carried out by an objc_draw() call:

objc_draw (tree, obj_no, MAX_LEVEL,

Here, (OBJECT *)tree and (GRECT)rect are as before and MAX LEVEL is a standard symbolic name to indicate that the object, and all its descendants, are to be drawn (if you use zero here, only the object itself will be drawn; I to draw its children also; 2 to include grandchildren, and so on).

The obj no value is an int which is the offset of the object to draw - for which you just use the symbolic name from the RCS, which was later saved out in the header file. Since we're initially drawing the entire dialogue box, you would use OTHELLO in place of the (int)obj_no

The final thing to do is to actually execute the dialogue box, and this is done using a form_do() call. form_do() takes two argument - the pointer to the OBJECT tree and an offset to the OBJECT which the edit cursor is to initially be within. If there are no EDITABLE OBJECTs, you should use zero for the second value.

GEM will then take care of everything else for you, leaving form_do() only when an object with the EXIT or TOUCHEXIT flags set is selected by the user, and returning an int which is the offset to the object clicked on to exit the dialogue.

If the object was a TOUCHEXIT then the high-bit of the returned value (& 0x8000) will be set if a double-click was used to exit the dialogue box.

And manipulating and examining the array of structures which make up the dialogue box's OBJECT tree can be done as easily as with any other array of structs - examples abound throughout the DIALOG.C file.

 Next month, in the lost column of this series, we'll convert Othello into o desk accessory and tie up o few loose ends.

Getting to grips with C

Did you miss out on a free copy of HiSoft C, given away with the April issue of Atari 57 User?

Or maybe you missed one or more parts

of this guide to programming in C?
If so you can still get hold of back issues by telephoning your credit cord details to

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Please state clearly which issue/s you

Too much Falcon

Whoa! Stop! Cease! The Falcon is a most wonderful piece of kit, on that we are all agreed. However, at the moment it is far too expensive.

My experience with the ST has taught me that the Falcon will be next to useless without at the very least 4Mb of memory and a hard drive exceeding 100Mb.

At £900 this is out of my price range. I have invested a lot of time and money on software and hardware for my ST, which I am reluctant to give up without good cause.

The point of this letter is not to denigrate the Falcon, but merely to point out that I shall not be buying the machine within the foresee-

As such I am fed up with buying your magazine, which is supposed to be for my ST computer but which appears to be for the Falcon, with an occasional article thrown in for

Enough is enough, let's get back to the ST, thank you very much.

D. McGeachie, Nattinghamshire

Our readership is split between peaple wha use their Atari camputer far games and home praductivity software, enthusiasts and prafessianal desktap publishers and musicians.

Same readers foll into mare than ane category but the single thing that unites them is their interest and enthusiasm far all things Atari.

The Folcon is a step farward in terms af technalagy, and although it remoins financiolly out of reoch af mast readers a recent reader survey shawed mast want ta reod about it.

Nearly all new saftware released far Atari camputers has been launched because af the Falcan's impraved copobility but is campatible with alder mochines.

When it is reviewed we mentian which features are nat available an STs, ensuring readers can make buying decisions based on whot they read. Even after saying this,

Got anything to say to the ST community? Then this is your soapbox

VII

mast editarial space in Atari ST User cantinues ta be given advising readers haw to get the mast fram the ST.

My kids buy porn

I have just discovered that my kids and their friends have been obtaining pornographic disks from New Age PDL advertised in your magazine.

There are quite enough public domain disks to sell and distribute without the above quite unnecessary in my opinion.

The ads in my house have been thrown in the fire but I had to go round the other parents concerned, which was very embarrassing for all of us.

Some parents were furious with their kids and with me for providing the magazine which was the source of the advert for these disks.

I am not particularly a prude but to supply disks like this to children - it must have been obvious from their handwriting which is far from adult - is disgusting.

Until you stop supporting this firm I shall

Letter

stop supporting you. Remember this is my money that supports you, the ST, the hardware and software suppliers. Ignore us at your peril.

We don't need you, you need us. We have always the choice to change to something else. Give serious thought to this.

Mr Jefferson, oddress nat supplied

What is parnagraphic ta ane persan cauld be perfectly acceptable to another, and I think it is likely that this is the prablem here.

As has been mentianed several times during recent months, Atari ST User has a palicy of nat printing adverts which cantain pornagrophic material.

We have loaked at the disks which New Age claim to be selling through their page, and nane cantoins anything more parnagrophic thon women in bikinis.

Pictures like this - ond worse - ore printed each day in notional tablaids and cause little offence ta their readers.

Needing support

Since May I have been the proud owner of a Falcon and enjoy using it very much. I've never before seen such a user-friendly operating system and been able to do whatever I wanted in just a few days.

There is still a problem, however. Most of the games and some of the other software I used on my ST don't work. I wasn't surprised, since I am aware that I am dealing with a computer containing different internal hardware.

What surprises me, however, is that software houses don't get their new ST titles to run on the Falcon as well. This can't be too hard to achieve, I guess. Why, for example, doesn't Zool run on a Falcon? It would be a perfect game for my favourite bird with its blitter and 32-bit processor. And so would other games.

Luckily, I recently got hold of a program called Backward which claims to be an ST emulator. It turns off some chips which are not in the ST, sets the clock speed to 8MHz and does other clever things too. It works fine and now I am able to play about 70 per cent of my games.

Some are even at improved speed. Try, for example, Midwinter 1 and 2, F1 GP, F-19, Populous II and more games that can use speed-improvements. Therefore, I think it's quite a shame to see that some newer titles - like Dogfight and Civilisation - don't work on the Falcon, not even with Backward.

Is there a way to persuade the software houses to write Falcon-compatible software? I think Falcon owners should start writing letters to ask them to give in to our pleas.

That way the Atari market will become more profitable for them and all Atari users will be happier. What more can you wish for? More Falcon-specific software. Peter Laras, The Netherlands

Mast praductivity and professional application saftware is now enhanced for use with the Falcan, although as you say Peter, nearly all games remain incompatible.

Atari soy they ore planning to launch five Falcan games within the next few weeks, and I believe Daze Marketing have a cauple of titles due befare summer.

Finding the route

In your Christmas issue you reviewed a program called Route Finder. As much as I tried I could not find the address of the program's supplier.

Would it be possible for you to print the address in your next issue? I think that Atari ST User is the best of its kind on the market.

I especially enjoyed the double disk issue ~ could we possibly have a larger communications section, and how about a regularly updated bulletin board telephone directory? M. Boiley, Nattinghamshire

Sarry, it appears that the gremlins struck the Christmas Public Sectar poges.

Raute Finder con be bought fram L.A.P.D. ot 80 Lee Lane, Langley Heanar DE75 5HN. Alternotively, you con telephone the librory an 0773 605010.

Waiting to hear from you...

To join the ST chat show drop a line to The Editor, Write Now, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SKI0 4NP

Picture formats

I am a beginner to assembly programming and am starting to learn about screen and graphics manipulation. I am having difficulty with obtaining information on Neochrome and Degas Elite picture formats.

Please could you help with any information on these particular formats as I am at my wits end?

S Jones, Crewe

No problem. The formots for Neochrome and Degas Elite picture files are os follows:

Neochrome file format CNEO

I word	Flag (always 0).
I word	Resolution (0=low,
	I=medium, 2=high).
16 words	Colour palette.
12 bytes	Filename (usually left blank).
I word	Colour animation limits. If
	the colour animation is valid,
	the high bit is set. The low
	byte contains the colour
	animation limits with the
	most significant bits repre-
	senting the lower limit and
	the least significant bits
	being the upper limit.
l word	Colour animation direction
	and speed. The low byte is
	the number of frames or
	Vblanks per step of colour
	shifting. If the value is nega-
	tive, the colours shift to the
	left.
I word	Holds the number of colour
	steps to display the picture
	for before proceeding to the
	next one.
I word	Image X offset (unused and
	always set to 0).
I word	Image Y offset (also unused
	and set to 0).
word	Image width (unused. Set to
Lucard	320).
I WOI d	Image height (unused. Set to 200).
32 words	Reserved for future use.
22 MOLG2	Neserved for ruture use.

16,000 wordsActual picture data. Total bytes = 32,128

Degas Elite format (.PI1=lo res, .PI2=med res and .PI3=hi res)

	cture resolution. 0=low medium, 2=high).
16 wordsCo	
16,000 wordsA	ctual picture data.
4 wordsTa	ble of left colour animation
lir	nits. This includes the
ra	nges for four animation
ra	nges. The first word in this
ta	ble and the first word in
th	e table below are the first
an	imation range and so or
	r the others.
4 wordsTa	ble of right colour anima-
	on limits.
	nimation direction table
	ch word signifies the direc-
tic	on of animation for each

Total bytes = 32,066

range. 0=left, 1=right.

1/60ths of a second.

...Animation delay times. Every entry is equal to 128-delay in

Second drive

I am very new to the ST scene and am about to splash out on a second drive. My main reason for buying it is to simplify and speed up file copying.

I am a student and use the ST as a word processor for my subject work. As such, I inevitably end up with lots of files of work on different subjects and of differing versions.

I soon got fed up with the way the ST handles file copying using just the internal drive, so a second drive will be invaluable for that as well as meaning my word processor sessions will benefit.

Can you recommend a suitable drive and give me some tips on what to look for?

L Robinson, Middlesborough

A secand drive certainly daes simplify and speed up file copying, moking the whole pracess much easier. Yau cauld alternatively use a RAM disk ta make life easier. but this abviausly has its drawbacks such as taking up memary. When laaking far a

covers such topics os AES, GEMDOS, VDI, BIOS, XBIOS, MultiTOS, SpeedaGDOS, hardware and many ather aspects af all Atari camputers. Every function of TOS 1.0 through to TOS 4.0 is explained and many of the new features in TOS S.0 taa.

It is a valuable reference manual that na ST, Falcon or TT progrommer shauld be withaut. The Compendium casts £39.95 and is availoble from HiSoft on OS2S 718181.

Bleeping keyboard!

Every so often, when I turn on my ST, a continous beeping sound emenates from the ST and the keyboard locks up.

If I ignore it and load some software, the keyboard still refuses to work.

This doesn't happen all the time and I am beginning to suspect it's a symptom of a virus. Please can you help?

B Williams, Strood

This prablem is fairly camman. It is due ta

avice

secand drive, ensure it has its awn built-in pawer supply as appased ta taking pawer fram the ST itself.

In general, mast drives fram reputable dealers are as reliable as the next. Same drives hawever, affer extra features such as digital track readaut, which is pretty much useless.

External drives are quite cheap taa. Ladbrake Computing's Zydec external drive and Pawer Camputing's PC720P cast a mere £55.

If you have a bit more to spend, Pawer Camputing also have their PC720B which hos extros like drive B boat focility ond built-in Blitz Turba backup hardware, all for £S extro. The drive B baot focility allaws yau ta use the external drive to baot from and the Blitz Turbo feature is an extremely fast disk backup pockoge.

Ladbrake Camputing can be cantacted an 0772 203166 and Power camputing can be cantacted an 0234 843388

Technical reference

I have been trying in vain to find get a copy of the technical reference manual from Abacus called Atari ST Internal, but I have failed miserably. I would be grateful if you could tell me where to get hold of a copy and also any other reference manuals for the Atari computers.

R Dutton, Surrey

The reason you are having problems finding the Abacus manual is that it has gone aut of print. Hawever, fret nat as HiSaft have came to the rescue with The Atari Campendium. It's a hefty tame and is the mast comprehensive "all-in-ane" technical reference manuol far Atari camputers yet. It weighs in at a massive 860 pages and having an jaystick plugged in which has a outofire feature turned on when you boot up. Simply make sure it isn't turned an when yau switch an yaur ST and yau should find the problem disoppeors.

Floppy problems

Having recently bought my Atari 520ST, I am experiencing some problems. I bought the computer second-hand and it works very well in itself.

The problems arise when I try to use my son's disks. He also has an Atari 520ST. Some of the disks work fine but 90 per cent of them won't work at all

I tried to use the two disks from your December issue but was unable to get my computer to accept them. I kept getting the message that the disks may be damaged.

Could you please explain what could be wrong and if there is anything I can do?

D Siberry, Middlesborough

It saunds as thaugh yau may have a single sided internal drive as appased ta a dauble sided drive, which are fitted as standard an later madel STs. Early STs were fitted with single sided drives.

Try farmatting a disk ta dauble sided and then check the disk size by highlighting the disk A ican and selecting Shaw Infarmatian fram the File menu.

If your disk is single sided, the figure will be in the 300k+ mark whereas dauble sided drives give a 700k+ figure.

If your drive is single sided, it is not passible ta read any disks farmatted as double sided.

Yaur son's camputer can farmat single sided drives ond it moy be that the few disks fram your san's camputer which

4 words...

worked fine just happen to be formotted as single sided.

No supply

Recently, my 1040ST has stopped working and I have been led to believe that the culprit is the power supply. My ST is quite an old model and I was wondering if you could suggest a company who could replace my power supply and possibly give it a good servicing?

K Brannan, Windsar, Landan

System Solutions (Tel 07S3 832212) ore the clasest ta you ond ore one of the most reputable companies who can repair your oiling ST.

They ore officially authorised by Atari so you con be sure of o good job.

More memory

I have been considering upgrading my 1040STE's 1Mb memory for some time now and I would like to ask a couple of questions.

The lines ore apen 10am till 8pm Mandoy to Friday and 10am till 5pm on Saturday.

Faster ST

I am a keen, nay fanatic, fan of the Calamus SL colour DTP package and have reached a critical point in my use of it.

Luse Calamus SL on my Mega ST4 and now find myself feeling the need for speed because screen updates are beginning to slow me down. I have already bought NVDI, a software screen accelerator which is very good, but it's still not fast enough.

Is there any hardware which is available that will increase the clock speed of my 8MHz Mega ST to double or more?

J MacFarlane, Yarkshire

System Salutions can provide you with whot you need. Their hordwore accelerators - the T28 and T36 - can speed up your Mega ST to either 28 or 36MHz respectively.

Both include o 64k coche which con be

zine, Atari ST Review.

The anly restriction is that o manufocturer's "wotermork" is printed ocross any poges printed with the caverdisk version. Other thon thot, everything else works.

Floppy failure

I am experiencing some very annoying problems with my Atari 1040STE's internal floppy

About three weeks ago, whenever I tried to write to a floppy disk, I occasionally got the message "Disk in drive A: is physically writeprotected", even though the write protect hole on the disk was closed.

Removing the disk to check it and then inserting it back into the drive and retrying usually cured the problem after a few attempts.

Now though, the write protect problem is permanent and I am unable to write or even format any disks at all.

Will I have to get a new drive or is there

something I can do? I'm not bothered about opening up my computer and removing the drive to check it myself, so a few pointers will be helpful.

C Rastack, Glaucester

It seems the write protect mechonism moy be foulty. Same drives use o mechanical

write pratect mechonism while athers use an optical methad.

It is unlikely you will be oble to repoir it yourself as there aren't any serviceoble parts to it. And it would be far cheaper ta buy a new drive than ta have it repoired.

Look thraugh the adverts in this manth's issue far prices of internal flappy drives - they generally stort from os little as £40.

I. What is the maximum memory I can upgrade my STE to?

2. How easy is it to fit the memory? (I don't have too much knowledge of electronics)

3. Who are the best company to approach in terms of price and quality?

/ Smith, Essex

Let's get straight ta the answers shall we?

1. The maximum omaunt of memory you cauld upgrade to used to be 4Mb. Hawever, Marpet Developments (Tel 0423 712600) have recently developed an upgrade baard that can add an additional 8Mb ta take the maximum up ta 12Mb!

2. Fitting upgrades to an STE is much eosier thon fitting them to a ST. This is because mast STEs have SIMM sackets which occept stondord SIMM memary baards. Fitting these is just a matter of undaing your camputer ond plugging the extra memary in.

Hawever, there is the danger of static damage ta the SIMMs. So if you hove nat gat a great deal of experience with electranics, take advantage of the fitting services which most deolers affer.

3. It is difficult to suggest one particular deoler os mony of them offer equal quality af service. I suggest you flick through this month's issue ond check with the variaus odvertisers.

RAM memary has also recently undergane a majar increase in price ond ot the time of writing, prices are fluctuating sa check with each dealer far current prices.

Yau may alsa like ta knaw that aur sister magazine Atari ST Review ore currently affering a memary upgrade service with I, 2 and 4Mb upgrades casting £9.99, £49.99 and £99.99 respectively. Far mare infarmatian, call the arder hotline on 0480 891171.

switched on or off ond when cambined with your copy of NVDI, you con expect o healthy improvement in perfarmance.

The T28 costs £199 and the T36 casts £299. For mare infarmatian about them. cantact System Salutions on 0753 830344.

FANSI graphics

Can anyone give me the name of a comms package that will let me make use of the ANSI colour displays available on most BBSs these days? I have an Atari 1040STFM with TOS 1.02, double sided drive and external drive.

R Snipperley, Bucks

Freeze Dried Terminol v2.20 ar higher is what you need. It's available as a sharewore demo which will ollow you to try it aut and if you find it's the best thing since sliced bread, simply register and you are sent a "key" which will activate all the features. Mast PD libraries warth their salt will hove this in their callection, so give yaur favaurite library a call and ask them

Suitable DTP

I am looking for a low cost DTP package which will allow me to create personalised greeting cards which can take advantage of the mass of clip art which I have accumulated from various PD libraries. Could you please recommend a decent package which won't make my wallet cringe?

A Matthews, Kent

Timewarks 2 will fit the bill perfectly and o fully warking versian far yau ta try aut appeared on the caverdisk of the Christmas 1993 issue af aur sister maga-

Got a problem?

Are you at the point of taking an axe to your ST? Do you want to pulverise your printer? Well just count to ten and relax. Then, jat dawn the problems you are having, along with a detailed description af yaur setup.

Include information on the type of ST you have, the TOS version (if known), what peripherals are attached and any extra hardware that lurks inside your camputer (accelerators, graphics cards and sa an) and I'll da my very best ta came up with a salution.

For those who have had problems and overcome them, chances are that someone samewhere is having the same problems and would benefit from your advice.

Sa get in print and send any tips ar suggestions that other users may find

Send all tips and cries for help to: Darren Evans, Advice Service, Atari ST User, Eurapa Hause, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

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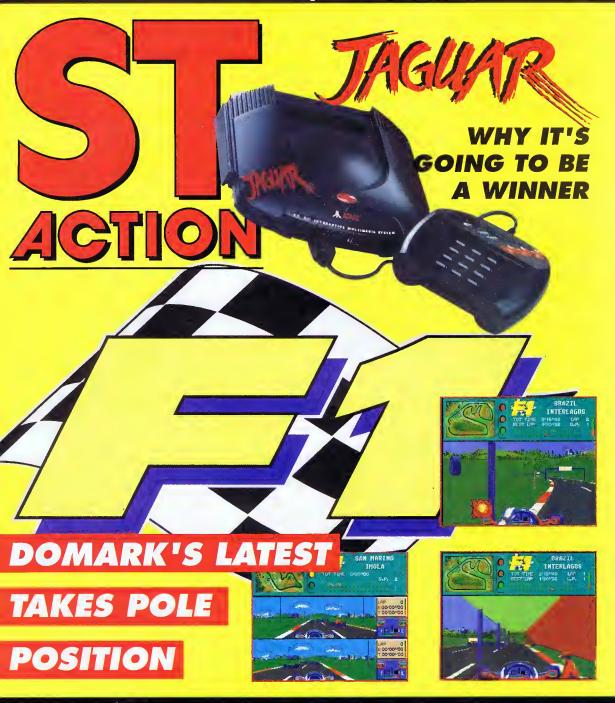






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REVIEWS... F1 • JAGUAR • CYBERMORPH • SPACE CRUSADE • SPEEDBALL 2

ALSO... GENESIA PREVIEWED • COMPLETE GUIDE TO ROBOCOD • A LOOK AT THE LATEST MANGA VIDEOS • A REVIEW OF LAST YEAR'S HIT GAMES



Jonathan Maddock takes a brief a look at STA's favourite games of 1993

Dynablaster



You may think I'm mad by not putting Elite II of the top spot, but woy bock in April o game come from France that is the most explosive piece of software you're ever likely to play, literally. Simple format and a simple idea.

You play the part of a bomber ogainst another four opponents, and must make your way through a moze

chucking bombs trying to destroy your odversaries and become the lost bomber stonding. See, it sounds completely rubbish, but that statement couldn't be further from the truth. Thonks to the five-player adoptor you con bring o whale new meaning to stoying in at home. Invite a few chums oround, bring some tinnies and settle down to the most fun you're ever likely to have ploying o computer gome.

Dynobloster may not look os impressive grophically as

other games, but it beats the crop out of everything else for sheer playability, addiction and more importantly enjoyment. The game received a mossive 94 per cent, a Gamer Gold and is an absolute clossic.

Elite II



The sequel to the world's biggest ond best camputer gome in the whole wide warld ever. Yau'd think that the ariginal cauldn't be better, well how wrang

you'd be if you thought that.

The games creator, David Broben, had really gane to tawn and created a piece of softwore that contains the universe, well most of it anyway.

Yau con fly past 200 billian stars and lond an anyane of the 30,000 inhabited planets in the game. In the ariginol there were anly a handful of missions, but the sequel hos literally thausands with aver 70 different types. As saan as you take off your destiny is placed in your awn hands where you go and whot you do is entirely up to you.

Visually Elite II cantains same of the highest detailed polygans and vectors you're ever likely to see an an ST. Fram space stations to whale cities, it's all there in beautiful light-saurced, techni-calaured detoil.

Far same people Elite became a way af life and slawly aver the years the Elite junkies have given up their habit, but thanks to David Broben and his superb sequel they were oble to get oddicted oll over again. Elite II is unmissable and you will love it.



Zool

Well it was about time. After every camputer and consale gat their versian of the warld's greatest plotformer o year aga, it eventually came to pass that Gremlin's biggest selling piece af saftware finally made it anta the ST.

The ninja from the nth dimension must jump, baunce and prance oraund six warlds af fost, frenetic plotform fun. Each warld has o theme and they range fram Sweet warld to the

final setting in Funfoir world. The speed of the gome was very impressive, as was the obundance of bright calaurs.

Zool may look cutesy and suitable far kids, but adults out there wan't find a tougher plotformer than Gremlin's effart. On his trovels Zool faces all manner af bizarre beosties including the huge end of level baddies. The oction plotfarm game of the year and nathing else cauld touch it with a borge pale!

Lemmings Z

Thase fiendish green-haired suicidal Lemmings returned in 1993 and this time they're mare suicidol than ever befare! There is actually a plot this time

A magic talisman had been braken into 12 ports and spread throughout Lemsville. There are 12 tribes of lemmings, each inhobiting their own piece af lemming island. Every tribe needs to complete ten levels, upon which they ore rewarded o piece of the magic tolisman.

If you liked the animation in the first gome then you're fall head over heels in lave with the sequel. The animators have gone to town and created dazens of new comical situations. In the ariginal, each lemming had eight different ottributes, but technology has maved an and the greenhaired ones ore blessed with a further 46 obilities.

Lemmings 2 is twice as gaad ond twice os fun as the ariginal and is worthy af a place in everyane's software callection. Psygnosis have created yet another clossic.

Chaos Engine

As a rule there's na-ane better for producing high-class, tap-quality computer games that the Bitmap Brathers and this twa-player shoat-'em-up wos na exceptian to the rule. The two players (either o chum ar the camputer) must bottle through faur worlds of hat shoating action.

Yau had to choose between six mercenaries from all walks af life including a preacher, a novvy, o gentleman and a thug. Eoch has its awn different attributes and special powers.

The grophics are obsalutely flawless and you can tell

that it is a Bitmap Brathers product just by gloncing at the

As with most Bitmop games there is a owesome soundtrack to boot with a smottering of sound effects. Addictive ond as ployable as hell itself, the Chaas Engine is one af the clossiest praducts that your maney con buy. Stylish, caal and a tatolly excellent shaat-'em-up.

ishar Z

The sequel to the all-conquering, critically acclaimed RPG adventure from Silmorils wos like a breath af fresh oir ta ST gamers this year. After being disappointed by inodequote adventures, Ishar 2 came on the scene and

Strapping an your sward and clutching your spell baok, you must head far o set of islands with on oll-new team of heroes as you try to defeat the evil Kragh ond his citadel af evil. Ishor 2 is a must-buy and shauld af be at the tap of every gomer's shapping list. The graphics ore lusciaus and put mast ather adventures in the shode. Some af the later evels are a sight ta beh<mark>ald. The m</mark>usic is quite otmosph<mark>eric</mark> and there is no way I could foult the game on the playability ond addiction frants. Despite being a very ald ond tired farmat Ishor 2 shane like bright star in the darkened sky.

Graham Gooch's World Class Cricket



Possibly the best non-football sports simulation I've seen in a long time. Cricket as, to some people, isn't that exciting, but Audiogenic have produced a highly enjoyable piece of software that will appeal to cricket and non-cricket fons alike. One of the main plus points of Gooch's World Class Cricket is the fact that it is so easy to play. In the past cricket games have only appealed to fanatics of the sport and this factor unfortunately made them highly unplayable and very

The graphics are excellent and well presented and even the sound, a Caribbean calypso kinda tune, is quite good. There is plenty of joystick waggling going on and this system of control makes batting and bowling very easy to do. Incredibly addictive, highly ployoble and well presented, Graham Gooch's is the ultimate cricket game.

Championship Manager '93

It was as a bit sparse on the football game front last year what with Goal arriving in 94 and Sensible capturing the hearts of ST gamers in 1992. No decent arcade soccer games, but one management simulation shone out from the rest of the pack and this was Domark's Championship Manager

Interlek's creation beat the pants off everything else for realism and accuracy. Graphics and sound weren't its strongest points, but it was just about as close as you're going to get to become a football league manager, unless you're one already!

Everything you think should be in a management game is in Championship Manager '93. Internationals, transfers, scouts, penalties, actual English and foreign player names are all in there which will please dedicated football fans and hopefully other games players as well!

Sleepwalker

Ocean do a lot of work for charidee, but they don't like to talk about it, instead they produce a broin-bashing platform adventure. Comic Relief returned to ask for some money for the needy and loads of you happy punters ran out to buy Sleepwalker.

Giving cosh to those less fortunate than yourselves plus you got one hell of a platform game chucked in for good measure.

The game featured the talents of Lenny Henry, who was the voice behind the star of the game, Ralph

the dog. His master Lee is a Sleepwalker and as man's best friend it's Rolph's duty to stop Lee from being zapped, bashed, clobbered, pummelled and squashed while he wolks around with his eyes closed.

Sleepwalker is packed full of brilliant cartoon-style graphics, plays like an absolute demon and is so addictive that you won't be able to put your joystick down. A truly great platformer packed full of puzzles and action, plus you'll be doing you're bit

The Secret of Monkey Island

Undoubtedly the borgoin game of the year and the most magnificent budget that you're ever likely to clomp your mits on. Thanks to US Gold's Kixx XL budget label you got the world's best adventure for a meosty price of £16.99.

The adventure of Guybrush Threepwood is presented in loving technicolour, contains a unique sense of humour and is so ployable you wan't want to put it down

until you've completed it.

I suppose there oren't a lot of people out there who hoven't got the game, but for those unfortunates who missed out first time there hasn't been a better opportunity to splash your cash on a piece of software.

Monkey Island received a humungous 94 per cent, one of the highest scores of the year, and a morale boosting gold award os well.

OVER THE PAGE

Fasten your seatbelts, extinguish all cigarettes and get ready to take off when you see what beautiful pages we've got for you this month...

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levels af Millennium's classic platfarmer

.67

fter years of being considered by some as affering a poor alterna-tive to both the Japanese con-sales and the Commadare

Amiga, Atori ore abaut a strike back.

OK, sa the Amiga aut-gunned the ST in many departments and really did kick its printer port right up the rump. But what the Joponese marketing machine did to the Lynx was nighton murderaus.

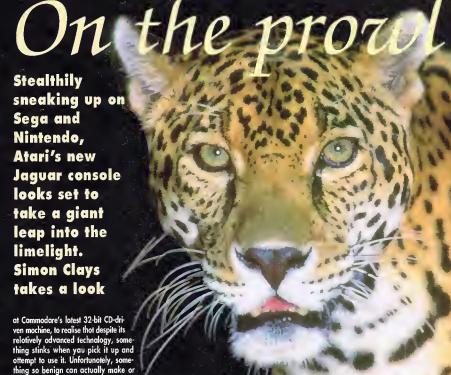
was ingin-on marearous.
It was a far superior machine to the Sega
Game Gear in every deportment, but backed
the support of high pawer advertising and
fell like a lomb to the sloughter.
However, what the mojority of us thaught
cauld hardly occur might octually became
reality. As far as its technical merits are can-

cerned, Joguor autguns practically every-thing on the planet. Add the Jaguor's highly favaurable price point and it seems that Atori have on enviable combination. But, as we've all learned since the evalution of the console, it takes

more than an impressive set of chips ta make a cansale a warld beater.

There are o great many aesthetic factors to be token into consideration, same of which may seem o little far fetched to the layman, but which ore af prime importance in the evolution of a machine.

Indeed, corporations invest phenamenal amounts of maney to research the carrect recipe for things as far removed as colour. Whot's even more surprising is that with this level af market research and investment, camponies still manage to release machines that don't have the level af appeal needed to make them winners. One only has to look



GAME REVIEW GAME REVIEW GAME BEVIÉW GAME BEVILLA GRME REVIEW GRME REVIEW RPME BEAEW DEMEREVIEW GMM E REVIEW GAME REVIEW GAME ALVIEW GAME REVIEW GAMEREVIEW HEVIEW GAME MEW EW GAME REVIEW GAME REVIEW GAME REVIEW GAME REVIEW

Behold, after what seems like an eternity in the waiting, it's finally here. Get ready for the first exclusive

game that comes bundled with the Jaguar pack, Cybermorph

look at the



Cripes! Driving at right without lights, very naughty

t last my dear Atari awners, after what seems like a lifetime in the wilderness spent wandering araund a relatively empty vaid while Amiga and PC awners soaked up the limelight, we're back. And, we're back with such a vengeance that even the mighty PC awners are gaing to be left quaking in their 486-sized boots.

I have to admit that until I saw what Jaguar is capable af, I too was highly sceptical. But it really is ridiculausly good far the maney yau're gaing ta have ta pay far it.

If the early saftware releases are a gauge af what things are gaing to be like, then we're gaing to see a revolution that sees Jaguar as the crown prince of the console empire.

When I first saw Cybermarph in its finished splendaur I was literally gab-smacked. One gaes fram day ta day in the camputer saftware industry seeing a great deal af games same of which do make you sit up and think "that's rather nifty".

Hawever, I've never been avercame in quite the manner I was when I saw Cybermarph. Mare than anything it deman-

Action FEATURE

break a product. However, I seriously believe that this time Atari have gat it totolly right in this department as well. The noment you even cast an eye on the pack-aging that Joguar is caged in, you get a sense of something special and pawerful. The machine itself is a sleek, black ani-

mal, using a clever combination of hightech space age technology and a softly moulded look that is popular in car interiors.

Although it's compact in size and height, Jaguar feels heavy and sturdy when you handle it. This strength leaves you with a feeling of security, and a sense that if you were to drop your precious machine it might possibly survive the blow.

Cartridges are inserted to the top of the machine and sit rather snug-ly next to a rounded undulotion which will seat the CD drive when it's released later this year.

Farward of the CD housing is the power switch and a rather handy indicatar light, which both speak for them-

Perhaps the most impartant part of any console is the feel and user friendliness of the control system. Atari have plumped for

the increasingly papular joypad.

Those af us who have always steered clear of the Japanese cansales invariably find these alienoting on first use, and strug-gle to ever find harmony with them. When Jaguar first emerged,

though, because the Jag-pad feels far superior to any of the aforementioned. The most impressive thing I noticed was its cleverly arafted shape which feels com-pletely ergonomic, and doesn't leave you with cramped up hands like so many

17 buttons and a four-way directional pad, which will render Atori's machine capable of the most complex of flight sims and adventure games.

In terms of layaut, the Jaguar has a 12-button keypad reminiscent of the way a telephone is displayed, with the clever facil-ity ta slot in an averlay for keypad recogni-

Abave the keypad sits the four-way directional controller, the pause and option buttons and A, B and C buttons.

The amazing thing I found when playing was that although it sounds a hellishly dextrous feat, the Jag-pad is remarkably easy

to use.

Using two hands the pad is easily accessible to all your fingers and thumbs, remaining incredibly camfortable without causing any stress or camp – although it remains to be seen how a small child might cope.

Overall what we have in Jaguar is incredibly exciting. It laaks better than any of its counterparts, it feels more durable than them, it's more practical and natural to use than them and most impar-

natural to use then them and most impartantly the hardware and software potentially kick Commodore, Sega, Nintenda, Philips and 3DO into the gutter. Nice one Atari, I think eight aut of ten awners are gaing to prefer this cat.



same criticism was made of the look of its joypad. However, having spent some time using this system I would beg to differ.

The pad is quite large in comparison to the CD32, Nintenda and Sega control pads. This shouldn't be seen as anything bad

af Jaguar's inferior counterparts. It also at Jayout's interior connerports. It also feels more solidly built than the ather joy-pads and is less likely to break when it's inevitably drapped on a surface. On the button front, Jaguar is mare than adequately catered for. It boasts a total of

strated the sheer power of the machine and its immediate superiarity ta anything else yau'll see.

I really cauld enthuse aver the power and future of the Jaguar far all the space I'm allawed, but I can't sa we'll mave an ta the plat of Cybermarph.

Far aff in the future a galactic war has braken aut. Bath sides are technalogically equal thanks ta rabatic assistance. Hawever, the evil Empire has captured the majarity of yaur weapanry, supplies and infarmation and has them lacked securely in pads thraughaut various planetary systems.

UNIOUE FIGHTER

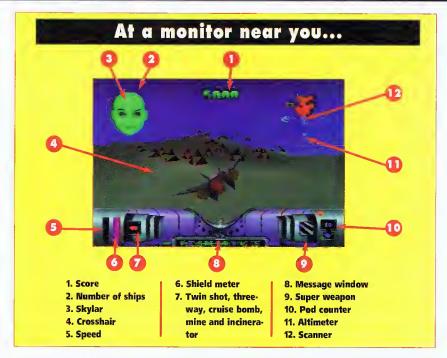
Even same af your top designers have been placed in cryagenic suspensian and encased in the afarementianed pads. Fartunately, your forces have a secret weapan tucked neatly up their neaprene sleeves. The Cybermarph Transmagriffin ar T-Griffin is a unique pratatype attack fighter.

As the name suggests, the T-Griffin is capable of marphing itself into various shapes ta render it mare aeradynamic ar better pratected fram enemy fire.

Though restricted to planetary atmospheres, it is capable of hugging terrain at incredibly high speed and can alsa haver and fly backwards. This saunds remarkably like a helicapter, but rest assured it's a whale lat mare.

I mean, haw many chappers da yau knaw that can take a severe battering and then regenerate the damaged parts? Or have an anbaard halographic agent to keep yau up ta date with battle data, enemy locatians and planetary activity? Not many I'll

Sa, with all this hi-tech equipment, your



simple task is ta callect these vital pads fram the surface of planets, thus revitalising the beleaguered resistance farces.

Having callected the necessary number of pads fram the planet surface Skylar (the halagram) activates the retrieval cade and apens a beam partal which transparts you to the next sector. I've read with same interest various camparisans and references ta Cybermarph being a 3D defender-type

In same respects I understand why this camparisan has been made, because in its simplest essence Cybermarph is that way inclined, but I must stress it looks nathing like a Defender clane and has substantially mare about it.

The game tatals a massive 50 levels and is divided into what are best described as systems. In each system you must clear five

JAGUAR GAME REVIEW



That bald bird at the top's a dead ringer for Sinead O'Connor

planets, find one secret world, access another through a bonus ring and tackle a world which contains an end-of-level guardian.

If you are successful in freeing a system then the resistance has a stronghold on which to base itself and you are able to move on to the next set of zones.

To really gauge the vastness of Cybermorph, it's best to examine the graphical worlds which go to make up the play area. Each planet is rendered in glorious technicoloured 3D fractals and features an effect known as garaud shading.

What this does is sits an artificial sun in the sky and shades all areas which are not

in direct sunlight to varying degrees. The overall effect is amazing and has to be seen to be believed. It brings a whole new level of realism to the landscape and brings a refreshing breath of fresh air into the 3D genre as you've seen it before.

What's also amazing is the pace at which the T-Griffin speeds across this complicated alien environment, it looks and feels truly magnificent as you swoop around the side of a fractal mountainside.

Unfortunately you can't spend all day gazing at the scenery and there's a job to do. However, the aim of your mission is disrupted as much as possible by the mony different types of Empire craft that inhabit the

It's a funny old game one minute driving along minding my own business, next second I'm attacked by a massive Demon's head



planets. These do their utmost to destroy both the T-Griffin and the pods you are trying to rescue. Some alien craft transport the pods to special areas much as a goods vehicle would.

These special areas are close by to Vortex towers, which emit a pollutant causing mass genocide of your pods by infecting them

There are a vast array of enemies to pit your wits against. There are Kamikaze craft which throw themselves at your ship in the hope of damaging it and Pirates which fire missiles and then flee.

You also get crabs which bury themselves in the ground and then pop up, worms which camouflage themselves as the terrain and biospheres which cling to the ship and drain your energy.

Worst of all are the infamous level

Worst of all are the infamous level guardians like the Headhunter which apart from being intelligent can sink into the ground and re-emerge on the other side of you and attack.

PUZZL

This really is the tip of the iceberg though, as there are at about 30 different aliens to defeat. As if that wasn't enough there are also Needles which thrust themselves out of the ground in an attempt to bring you down, prisons which ensnare your pods and forcefields which stop you entering various areas.

This is the puzzle aspect to Cybermorph as you must find the power supply to these systems and destroy them to proceed further.

Inside the T-Griffin there's a whole host of goodies awaiting your grubby mitts. For one, you have the ever helpful Skylar who operates a host of portals and equipment and generally gives you encouragement by way of some beautifully sampled speech.

You also have a rather nifty scanner which directs you to the pods, exits and also tells you where the nasties are honging out. The display also features everything else you'd expect of a quality spacecraft like speed, optional targeting crosshair, altitude and many more.

What you're itching for me to tell you about though is the impressive array of fire-power available to you. You start with a fairly mundane single shot and most of the others are generated through having collected the pods that litter the planet surface, rather like power-ups.

There really are some pretty awesome weapons of destruction available to you. These can either build up your present weapon giving it rapid fire or double shot, or you are given extra weapons.

For example, the Incinerator shoots a deadly ball of flame, whereas Cruise Bombs hug the terrain before wreaking havoc on their target.

If that wasn't enough, Cybermorph also features three super weapons: Thunderquakers which act like a smart bomb, Detonotors which destroy all buildings in a vacinity ond nitros which grant you a moments increase in speed and a high intensity shield for protection.

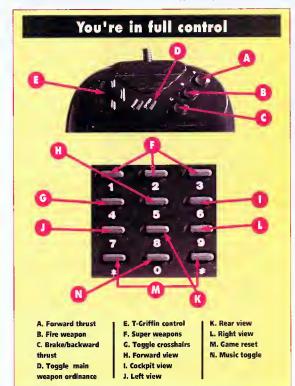
Cybermorph not only looks beautiful, it really plays superbly as well. The control through the joypad is a treat to use and doesn't take to long to get used to.

WAY AHEAD

Play is varied enough to keep you coming back for more, a taste of success will have you addicted in no time at all. I only wish there was more space for me to write more because I've not spoken about the fact that you con reconfigure the controls to suit yourself or the external views which make it possible to see the T-Griffin morph as it speeds up and slows down.

Cybermorph is a superb title to launch Jaguar with, it outstrips any other console package by light years. It looks great, sounds great and plays exceedingly well. Well done to ADT who've done a great job and roll on Battlemorph, the sequel.

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NOT released at time of going to press.





Free Membership with First Order. No obligation to re-order.

Welcome to the page which is to taste and intellect what **Bobby Davro** is to comedy and music. Dave Cusick is your host...

Mail order crooks?

Abaut three manths aga I sent away far Zaal far my 1040STE fram a mail arder campany.

I'd seen their advert in another ST magazine far several manths and I thought they must be reasonably reliable, sa I gave my dad the maney and he wrote aut a cheque

Golden oldies



I've noticed something of o trend in the public domain recently. People are resurrecting old games, adding smarter graphics and so forth. In the last few months I've seen Galaxian (brilliant space invaders clone), Rayoid (great asteroids clone),

Rayoid (great asteroids clone), Pecman and many more.

Quite frankly, I'm happy as larry to see these classics given a new lease of life, especially since they anly cost a couple of quid. I'm just waiting for a PD or shareware version of fragger, because I had a version of it for my Acorn Electron which was brilliant and I'm sure my STE was brilliant and I'm sure my STE would make a great job of it. Maybe the blokes who came up with that lovely STE-only version of Pacman are listening?

R Felton, Derby

I ogree, it is nice to see such classics l agree, it is nice to see such classics doing the rounds again and reaching a whole new audience of younger gamesplayers. It's surprising just how many goad games have started appearing in the public domain, sa you'd be well odvised to monitor the PD pages carefully for the latest developments. Some of the games are better than commercial efforts, and they cost about a tenth of the price. price.

far me and I sent it aff.

Abaut twa weeks later the cheque was cashed, but sa far I've still seen nathing af Zool. About a manth after I ardered it I wrate again to the campany, but they didn't rep

They didn't give a telephane number in the advert sa I haven't been able to ring up and pester them about it. What should I da?

They've gat my maney, which taak ages to save up, and I've not got my game yet. Graeme West, Aberdeen

In situations like this it's very difficult ta knaw what ta da. Since they've cashed your cheque they shauld indeed have sent the game and since they haven't they are breaking the law.

Try writing again and if yau dan't hear anything back within a week ar twa, I wauld try cantacting the lacal trading standards affice to see if they can help. There's a lesson to be learned fram

this stary. Always try and use campanies that friends have found reliable or that you've used yourself

Yau dan't say which magazine

If you've something to say, put pen to paper and write to the Techmeister himself...



Send you post to : Mr Talkback, ST Action, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

yau saw the advert in; yau shauld always make sure that the magazine has a palicy af nat allawing adverts fram just any ald

For extra help and advice turn to the special Mail Ordering feature in this issue.

How do we do it?

First af all, well dane to everybady invalved in STA. I like the new writers and style and I'd just like ta say keep up the gaod wark.

The other thing I was meaning to ask is about haw you actually put the magazine tagether. Da yau write all the reviews an an ST? And haw da yau get the pictures af the games as well?

Daniel Roberts, Manchester

We're all sa chuffed with your

campliments, Daniel, that we shall indeed enlighten yau as ta the intricacies of our production process. Obviously we play the games on on ST, but we have to write the reviews and lay out t he pages an Apple Macintash camputers because these are

the industry standard machines.

We "grab" the screen pictures
using a hardware device which cannects the ST to the Mac. When we flick a switch an this device and press a key an the Mac the picture which is an the ST's screen is "grabbed" into memory and appears on the Mac's screen. This can then be saved and imparted inta the publishing saftware an the Mac far incarparatian in the layaut of the pages.

Since freelance wark is dane at hame, hawever, it is aften written an the humble ST and saved in a format readable by the Mac publishing package.

The Poor Corner

Disk Ditty

There's Sony disks and Agfa disks and Select disks and more besides There's TDK and 3M disks and even ones with double sides There's cheapy disks and branded disks and HD disks with holes both sides And 5 inch disks and 3 inch disks and 3.5 for ST drives There's silver disks and orange disks and bluey disks and black ones too There's greyish disks and reddish disks and yellow ones and green for you There's floppy disks and hard drive disks and optical types on sale too But one thing that still baffles me is why they break when smeated with

Ulrika Jenkins, London

Dodgy Salesperson Jobby

As I went wand'ring through the woods ! met a man selling shoddy goods His table was filled with machines Obtained from sources by dubious means He grinned and winked and smiled at me And asked a fiver for an Atari ST I could not believe my eyes I leapt with joy and some surprise I dua down deep and found the dough And raced off home, my friends to show I wanged a disk into the slot And all at once I was besott ...ed.

Ray Stinson, Lancashire

Sad Ode to the ST

Gloria Gaynor said whe'd uprove But she wasn't as pretty as that 3.5 drive Rod Stewart sung of Sailing 'cross seas

But he ain't a patch on springy grey keys Gollum asked about Bilbo's pockets But he's not as cute as those Midi sockets And as for those holes where jo sticks

Into those I thrust my Quickshot 2 Python. Why, what what else would ! stick in

Steven Crays, High Wycombe

They really do get sadder each month, don't they? Ray and Ulrika's efforts were poor enough, but I can honestly say I don't think we've yet had a poem as dire as Steven's little ditty. If you think you can do better (and let's face it, it's not difficult), drop us a line here at STA towers.





"Champians, Chompians!" Drunken revelry with the bays

BUDGET ACTION

Take control of Brutal Deluxe, attempt to hit a metal ball into a goal and punch the living daylights out of your opponent — or be a right big girl's blouse!



Metal-plate head Grobbelaor mokes a great save. Funky moustache not included

Knoc-kaut, League or Cup matches, or proctice mode if you feel your team need some troining. The games are played over two holves, each one losting 90 secands. Points can be gained by scaring o gool (ten points), injuring on opposing player (ten points), or through the score multiplier; this con increase your score by up to 100 per cent by simply throwing the boll up o romp, but con be cancelled out by the other team.

You con also increase your paints by throwing the ball against Bounce Domes ar lighting the stars located on the stadium wall.

Bonuses can be collected on the pitch and foll inta two categories: tokens and ormour/weapanry.

Takens effect the entire team ond mast of them ore fixed by a time

determines haw hord it is for someone to toke the boll from you, for instance.

The moves are easy ta master and the simple jaystick contrals moke controlling your players easy. A certain omount af oftertouch con be applied to direct the boll in the direction you wont.

The rapid gomeploy makes far

The rapid gomeploy mokes far an exciting sports gome. There is plenty ta keep you amused for quite o while. If you monoge to complete the Leogue, there ore olwoys the cup motches - knockout tournaments consisting of faur raunds ployed over two legs, and if all this gets tao much you can olwoys grab o friend ond ploy o

two-ployer match.

The futuristic theme is token up in the attractive oppearonce of the game. The metallic-laaking sports arena is cleorly set out ond so none of the oction is missed.

The sound track is good and it's o shome that the music cauld not be continued throughout the gome instead of rother sporse sound effects.

All in all thaugh, it's a great game with plenty of action and the monagement side af having to develop a strategy and build your team odds voriety.

TINA HACKETT

SPEEDBALL

elcome to the yeor 2100, and Speedboll 2 is back. Five years af being forced undergraund it returns, thanks to the creation of the Speedball Players' Association and the newly formed 16-team World Speedball League. But still it remains as vialent as ever.

Your team, Brutal Deluxe, is stuck

ot the bottam of the WSL's Division 2, but now you're in chorge and it's your chonce to moke them greot. Dore you take up the cholleges?

The object of the game is to score points by lobbing a metal ball into your apponent's gool by ony means possible. This includes beating the pulp out of your rivol if you

Simple huh?
Well, this is
nat to mentian
all the banuses you need to
ocquire, cruciol to the outcome of the
gome, or thot
you need to
build up yaur
teom with the
mony oftributes ovailable
and create o

You can choose between

strotegy.

limit of six secands. These con help you in a variety of ways. Far example, Freeze Team will freeze apponents far a limited period, and Monic will increase both teams' attributes to a maximum. Armour and weaponry can also be picked up to increase individual player's attributes. A Chestplate will increase defensive obility, Bitmap Shades will enhance aggression, a Glave will increase power and so on.

Through the management side of Speedboll 2 you can build up your squad of 12. Buying and selling your players while increasing their attributes can prove vital to your success.

The Gym screen will ollow you to troin individual players or the whale teom. A player's attributes determine their individual strengths during a match and con be changed through this screen.

Ployers ottributes are roted in eight woys. Aggression defines whether players will ottock or ovoid their opponent ond Defence



Fast, furious, futuristic sparts actian, with a management strategy angle ta it. Great stuff!

Publisher ➤ Kixx

Developer ➤ The Bitmap Brothers

Disks ➤ 1

Price ➤ £9.99

HD Install ➤ N/A
Size ➤ 1/2 meg



The Gym Screen, and there's nat enough cash to buy thase cool Bitmap shades. Aah, shame!

WORK IN PROGRESS

GENESIA

Populous and
Civilization may have
reigned for a long time
now, but there's a new
kid in town called
Genesia and he's here
to take the throne...

ver the years the God game has become more and more popular. There haven't been many of this type made simply because of the amount of programming and knowledge that it takes to produce the piece of software.

Populous 1 and 2, Powermonger, Civilization and Sim City have all been tremendous successes on the ST, but why has the genre become so popular? Well for starters you get to play God. What other reason do you need!

You rule a piece of land or even a whole world and get to control everything including

THE TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

The map of world one and the land is there to be conquered, so get conquering!



Before your adventure gets underway you must select trades for all your inhabitants

Вета

This is the tray convent 20 to 20 to

Fire! Somebody call 999. Oh damn, telephones haven't been invented yet!

messing and enhancing people's lives. Does this mean that God is sitting somewhere at a ST with mouse in one hand and copy of Populous in the other?

Then again this means God must have created the people to make Populous and therefore is the life we're leading in fact just a small insignificant part of a very huge and complicated computer game? If God created

Bulance To See The See

us then who created God and do we actually exist anyway and why am 1 losing track of what I was going on about?

Ah yes, why has this genre become so popular? Another reason could be that older players are getting into these super intelligent God games. Kids leaving their computer on may well find out that Mum or Dad could be controlling whole worlds having given up on trying to control their kids.

This is due to the universal appeal of the God game. I personally don't know anyone who doesn't like Populous. They are very intelligent, strategy-based games, but this doesn't make them boring, they are perhaps more rewarding than other types of software. In most God products you get to control

One of the nice and helpful balance sheets to keep you informed on how you are doing in your quest for the seven jewels people, you must combat natural and unnatural disasters and so the whole point of the software is to survive. The ability to say that you survived is a pretty awesome achieve-

One of my personal favourite God games is Sim City. This is due to the fact that you have a choice on how to play. You can build up your city and try to complete an objective or you can just sit down at your monitor screen and fiddle endlessly with your city at your own leisure.

These games all seem to transport you to another world where you can easily lose track of time plus you don't have a set time in which to complete the game. By saving your position you can come back to your world or city whenever you like. All in all each God game provides a welcome and relaxing break away from some of the monotonous platformers and shoot 'em-ups.

Populous and Civilization have dominated the field for a couple of years now, but coming to your power-crazy clutches in the first part of 1994 is Genesia.

Genesia is being published by Mindscape and you play the part of leader of your own small land, the slight problem being that the small is way too small for your liking and ambition. You must expand your land and populace in tune with nature, paying attention to the climate and managing resources such as water and timber.

There is an objective to Genesia and that is that you must recover seven missing jewels as quickly as possible. The strength of your economy, army and technology will enable you to fulfil your goal.

It's not going to be easy though because you are up against two opponents who are just as intent on recovering the jewels as you are. The other two players can either be



Yes even in computer games you have to pay your taxes. I'd blame the Tories and hey who wouldn't!

The work has begun on the land. Three houses are already built and the farmer has started on his field



played by the camputer ar by your human friends.

Once found, the jewels can alsa be subsequently last, so your task is not as straightfarward as it seems. You win by being the first to recover all the jewels or if you're the anly player left standing.

Befare the action starts you have to chaase between five different warlds. Depending an the ane you choose, the camputer will apply a specific palicy plus the game's canfiguration will be different and have its awn strategy.

Yau begin the quest with faur inhabitants. Eoch owns a hause and must be given o trade. These range from formers to inventors ta blacksmiths. Every jab ta build a living populace is in there.

The chaice of trade must be made wisely at first. Far instance it's nat warth choosing a carpenter if you haven't chasen a woodsman ta cut dawn the trees. The inventors play a particularly crucial rale in helping you fulfil your missian because they invent machines ta help you win, but first you must build them a warkshap. This means that you need a waadsman, a carpenter and an architect befare you can even begin to think about achieving your final abjective.

useless if you dan't keep the surrounding land in order. You must have good water

JUDUKAN ciality NOTHING The second balance sheet which is similar to the first, but

uses figures and words rather than the bar graphs

supplies, which means wells must be built. Fields must be sawn to enable farmers to graw craps to feed your workforce and so it goes an.

The first aim is to build a small village, sa that you can attract enough people to live there and then hapefully use them as your army, sa that you can wander the land to find the jewels and defeat your appanents.

Ta lure people anta yaur land certain

factors must exist. This next bit might saund like a Blue Peter cookery lessan, na battles shauld be in pragress an your

Genesia has sa many factors and decisians to be made that I could spend ages detailing them all, but lack af space prevents that. It is so in-depth that it will keep gamers entertained far a lang time ta came.

Genesia is based an a "turn" farmat. Yau must make all your decisions and then end yaur turn, sa that yaur apponents can have

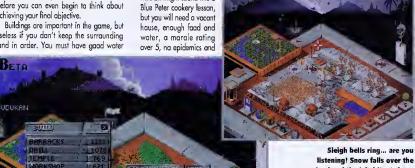
can now store all my supplies there

start, land will be scarched and water supplies will be law. In winter all autdoor activities such as farming, lumber and carpentry must autamatically came to an end due to the harshness of the weather.

Genesia, although similar in style to Papulaus, has same nice little features. One of these is the balance sheet which pravides all manner of information on how you are daing in your quest. Not highly ariginal, but it's quite aften these little tauches that imprave a game fram being mediacre ta excellent.

It seems to combine two elements of gamesplay which have been previously featured in its campetitars. The first is the ability ta sit back and slawly build up your settlement fram nathing while the secand is the abjective which must be achieved to camplete yaur auest.

These two elements, cambined with its amazing graphics cauld well see Genesia becaming one of the strategy/God games of 1994 and maybe even surpassing its predecessars.



land and the inhabitants have built some snowmen!

their ga. Each turn represents ane af the fours seasans (spring, summer, autumn and

Nat only daes this allaw far same quite brilliant graphics in the game it also casts up another range of aptions and decisions to cansider. Far instance in summer fires will

This menu allows you to build. I've decided to construct a warehouse





At long last it's the green The ideal opportunity to ta on the mantle of Mr Mansell! Just blame everybody for everything, including all own mistakes, and generally suffer from a strange accent...

On yer marks, get set, oh, go on then wiggle that joystick

t's a strange old world isn't it? How many times punters, have you had déja vu? I'd guess prabably a few times, but not as many as yours truly, wha sees replicas of the some gome ideas

repeated several times a week. Oddly enough, the most common clone of oll is the car racing game. After oll if you moke a bog-stondord plotformer, at leost the character can look slightly different fram the last you sow.

But in the racing circuit, there's only ane definitive set of tracks, one set of cors with the

same markings and one set of named drivers.

As a rule, cor roces ore the type of game I've always revelled in, but there does came a time when o genre becames "tyred" ond the praverbiol "exhoust" becomes exhausted.

This is not to say that there hasn't been a boot-load af classics olong the way. You've anly got to toke a little look at the likes of Formula 1 Grand Prix or Vroom to oppreciate what a dassy racing game's driving at.

Uncannily enough, the link here is that Domark's latest offering to the gomes warld is programmed by non other than Lankhar, the people behind Vroom.

I dan't knaw haw many of you remember Vroom, but let me tell you it was a classic. French saftware house Lonkhar worked wonders and prabably produced the fostest Formula 1 racing game ever far the ST.

Well, now they're bock with their secand offering with the full and unadulterated appravol of the motor rocing sports governing body, the FIA. Whot this meons is that the game con feature oll the official trocks, drivers, canstructors and advertisers.

Someone please carrect me, but bor the

odd name, everyane's used all of the abave without the official recognition of their product, so I dan't think it meons that much. However, it's a nice tauch I suppose, and will no doubt help F-1 ta sell a tad mare eosily.

Thot soid, the proof is in the pudding ond it's the ploy and look that will determine the success of this releose. So with this in mind let's dan aur averalls, wolk gingerly over ta

TRACKS OF MY TEARS



BRAZIL - Interlagos A demanding but rewarding circuit with two top speed straights. Spend too long having tyre changes and you'll be surprised how quickly your opponents catch up



Here's a track that will having you driving to your limit. The course is very fast, but try to remember where the chicanes are as they'll require some hectic braking



SPAIN - Barcelona This is a really hard course with corners that appear to rush up on you from nowhere. An important track to keep your eye on the circuit map at the top of the screen



MONOCO - Monte Carlo Probably the most famous circuit in the world. Raced on the streets, you'll find qualification as Important as the race since overtaking is really tricky



This Grand Prix will put a tremendous amount of pressure on both your tyres and brakes. Try to remember your braking points so you're not caught out by some of the slower corners



Situated between Toulon and Marseille, Castelet has one of the most spectacular chicane sections of any motor racing circuit, that has to be experienced to be believed



the pits and find aut whether F-1 is o blow out on the first lap, or a model snagging, chompogne-spurling winner.

Playwise everything begins in the Options menu, where you determine the type of roce you wont ta run. You can decide to train an any of the 12 tracks that farm the world champianship, to fomiliorise yourself.

You can also select on arcade version of F-1 which puts you on the self same tracks, but asks you to overtoke an increasingly lorger number of cars to qualify for the next circuit. Lost, but by no means least, is the full blawn Warld Championship mode. This puts you up against all the top drivers vying for points over all the world's top circuits, ar allows you to choose an individual track to compete on.

Success, os usual, means points for prizes, with a win giving you ten paints towards the drivers' championship and the same number going to the constructors in their battle to be the best.

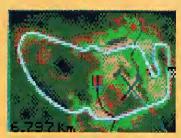
As usual in this style of title you can adjust the skill level to render it playable in the early stages and to give you same chollenge ance you've mostered the control and courses.

Skill levels can be odjusted between the indestructible cars that the navice drives, right through to the hyper-sensitive, lightning fast cars of the experts.

You also hove the aption to alter the wings of your hot rad, and much of this depends on the track an which you are competing. For example, setting your wings in a low position gives you less drag giving you o higher top speed, whereas o high setting aperates in reverse and makes you stick glue. You also have the appartunity to



BRITAIN - Silverstone Silverstone has been recently revised because it's just too fast. Now the circuit is one of the one of the most challenging around with fast sixth gear straights leading to tight second gear corners



GERMANY - Hockenheim
A dangerous forested circuit which is mainly made
up of straights. Your car should be aligned to a
low downforce setting, and don't forget to watch
out for some pretty sharp bends



BELGIUM – Spa
A popular circuit for drivers due to the precision required to hit fast lap times. However, it does contain a particularly dangerous first bend as the cars rush away from the grid



ITALY - Monza
The most incredible part of this track is the top
gear Parabolica corner which leads onto the startfinish straight. Getting this corner correct and you
will reach fantastic speeds



PORTUGAL – Estoril
A circuit comprised of long sweeping bends.
Overtaking Isn't too difficult as long as you are
prepared to leave the racing line and drive around
the outside of other cars



AUSTRALIA – Adelaide
A street circuit which may have you wishing you
selected an auto gearbox. Setting the car is a difficult task on this course as it contains both long
straights and extremely twisty sections



Err, I'll have a packet of crisps, a box of matches and a paper, please

change your tyres, the gearbox and just about everything else conceivable. In fact, one of the only things you can't change is your underwear after you've careered into an ad haarding.

Once you're on the grid you can elect to qualify or go straight into the actual race. Attempting to qualify is probably the best policy as you have a chance to improve your position on the starting grid, rather than the default position to the rear of the grid. After all the preparation work, it's finally time to test your skill and nerve in the race. Graphically, F-1 is very similar to its older brother Vroom, and has the same feel as it

This is by no means a bad thing, as Vroom not only looked good, but moved at a tremendous rate of knots. If you'd like proof of the speed of F-1, just select the Turbo mode and watch your car fly around the track.

If you have any trouble during the caurse of the race then you can enter the good old pit lane. Here you can get your mechanics to break into a sweat, changing your tyres or refuelling your sporty motor.

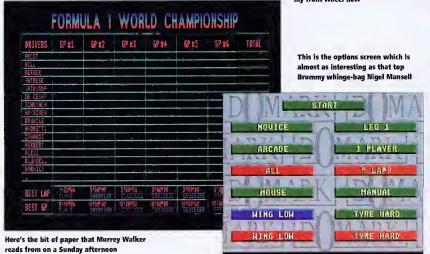
However, time being of the utmost importance in the hi-tech world of motor racing, you've no time to get yourself a nice munchy bar or glance at the overpriced tapes, it's straight back into the

Perhaps the best option of all is the twoplayer split screen game. This allows you to race against not only the other competitors, but also one of your mates.

To a lorge extent F-1 is very similar to its



Well, at least you can't clamp my front wheel now





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Time once more to turn into Barry Norman and review the latest batch of Mangas, and why not? Jonathan "Square Eyes" Maddock settles down with his popcorn for a feast of Japanese animation entertainment

Tetsuo 2: Body Hammer

Despite the "2", Tetsuo 2 isn't o sequel to Tetsuo: The Iron Mon, but is more o re-invention and re-moke. For those not oware, the Tetsuo series af film were mode by a young and highly occloimed Joponese film-moker colled Shinyo Isukomoto.

moker colled Shinya 19000moto.

Shinya has been compored to David Lynch (Froserhead, Twin Peaks, Blue Velvet), David Cronenberg (Videodrome, Noked Lunch, The Fty) and Ridley Scott (Alfen, Blode Runner).

This is probably down to the fact that his films are so weird, but he does have wild and original visions all as his own Body Hommer Starts with the abduction.

so weird, but he does hove wild and original visions oll of his own. Body Hommer starts with the obduction of o hoppy family mon's child by o deadly group of skinheads. In the struggle the mon [Tomoroh Toguchi, star of Tetsue) is injected with metal.

Hounted by violent nightmores and experimented an by the gang's vicious leader, the mon finds himself turning into a ferocious cyber-gun. Full mutation follows and o sovage battle ensues between Toguchi and the gang's leader. Body Hommer is quite brutol and disturbing at times, but

becouse the film is so bizorre you con't stop yourself wotching it. The comera work is unusual ond you get odd ongles ond view-points, but it does work surprisingly well, especially the energetic

points, but it does work surprisingly well, especially the energetic and often dizzying chose sequences.

The special effects are excellent and very effective. You could compore Body Hammer to films like Blode Runner and Terminotor, but Tetsuo 2 is just that bit more dark and bizarrhon its western counterparts. It's incredibly weird and nat for people with weak stornachs, but Body Hommer will become a cult classic. A must buy far fans of the original.





Running Time: 83 mins Price: £12.99



Certificate: 15 Year: 1993 Running Time: 50 mins Price; £8.99 Action Rating: 7/10

Judge

The stor of Judge is a quiet office worker colled Ohmo. Ohmo looks like a bit of wimp, what with his map-top hoircut, geeky glosses and weird pet parrot, but he is in fact the all-powerful Judge of Darkness.

The wrongful dead continually seek retribution from within the spirit world for the crimes cammitted against them. The justice they seek cannot be decided by ordinary low, but instead is contested vio the Law of Darkness.

Their pleas are communicated through the Statute Book, a living, breathing collection of judicial precedents recorded on human skin and is controlled by the merciless Judge of Darkness. The Judge hands out his sentence in various gruesame ways via the

gruesame ways via the pages of the book. The living have one defence ogoinst this paw-

erful system and his name is Shiman, o mon who is o sort of religious

ottorney entirely motivated by money. Ohmo's boss, Kawomota is occused of killing his best friend, Yomanobe. Yomonobe is also a mojor threat to Kowomoto and could become the head of the campany. What ensues is a court room battle held in the Supreme Court of Darkness between the Judge of Darkness and Shimma and in fact you could be formiven for thinking that this could be seen. could be forgiven for thinking that this could become o Mongo version of LA Law.

Judge is a sinister thriller and very entertoining. Unlike other Mongos it's not too violent, but it is still onimoted to perfection. The only thing I found wrong with it was that it's a bit too short. By the time I'd got really into it it was just about ready to end.

Judge is o good Mongo ond highly wotchoble, but locks that something to moke it o clossic.



Action FEATURE

Crying Freeman Chapter Two: The Enemy Within

Part twa af the Crying Freeman saga. The beautiful Emu and Freeman Yah

have now been joined in haly matrimany and have been chasen ta lead the 108 dragans. The dragans are an elite fraternity with-in the Chinese Maña and are constantly maving into a new era af blaodshed, extartian and vice.

Mysteriausly the new regime of the 108 dragans cames under attack and questions are immediately asked to whether there cauld be a traitar within the fraternity.

Freeman Yah and Emu, who naw sparts a fancy all over body tattoo af a figer, are

up against the might af a rival gang called the Kamara. Chopter Two: The Enemy Within is bosically mare of the same that was seen in part one,

The first part may

have been slightly better because all the characters were new, but part two is just as good in terms of cantent and leaves you thirsting for the third part.

Crying Freeman, the Tam Cruise laakalike, is still out and

dout an the killing from but he cames up agoinst same trouble via a mysteriaus waman. The vialence is still as brutal and there is an obundance of nudity plus ane scene I'd rather forget featuring a very large woman in the nude. Nat

Part twa still retains that mixture of suspense, martial arts and bane-crushing vialence. Owners of the first episode will want this desperately and if you haven't bought

Freeman is tap class entertainment and one of my favourite Manga films sa far.



Certificate: 18 Year: 1992 Running Time: 50 mins Price: £8.99 Action Rating: 9/10





Action Rating 9/10

02105:23:1

1:17

Wicked City

Far centuries, a nan-aggressian treaty has existed between the human world and the realm of the demans. Without it humanity would be a terrifying and faul chaas of deprovity and destruction. This pact is upheld by a group of undercover aperatives known as the Black Guard, but at the end of the 20th Century the treaty is up far

Terrarists fram either side seize an this time of uncertainty to step up their efforts ta sabatage any agreement. Their target is the legendary Dr Jaseppe Malyart who is the anly one who can sign the

The signing will take place in Takya and the Doctar is put under the protection of two prime aperatives from the Black Guard. Renzabaro Taki is a human while his partner is a beautiful waman called Maki from the realm of the demans. Taki sounds a lat like Clint Eastwood while his supernatural partner has a nifty line in dangeraus

Integrations.

They both get upstaged though by the delightfully perverted Doctor Malyart who is the real star of the film and will have you holding your sides through laughing too much. Although Crying Freeman and Tetsua 2 were good, Wicked City just has to be the best Manga film

it is prabably best described as Dirty Harry meets James Bond meets a Nightmare an Elm Street. It could even be described as a lave stary that gets invaded by all manner of harrible and terrifying manstrasities from beyand.

The animation casts a tense dark atmasphere aver the whale adventure and is absolutely first-rate. There are capiaus amounts of sex, vialence and swearing, but all these elements combine to make a truly wicked Manga film. Buy it naw ar be laughed at by small chil-dren far rest of your natural life.







n order to succeed, Atari's new Jaguar games cansale needs mare than just a good spec. It has to compete with the assembled might of the Japanese, and with Commadore's new CD32 console, as well as the curiously titled yet menacingly threatening 3D0.

That it is the best specified of all af these is beyond question. Its 64-bit technology is unsurpassed in the games world, its four (yes, faur) CPUs (set against the ST's ane) mean that it is, in many ways, four power-

ful camput-

ers in

af the last year, hibernating and beavering away at the first games we will see?

Situated an a science park an the autskirts af Oxford, Rebellion are in a suitably hi-tech setting environment, mirraring the status they currently enjoy as ane af the star developers in the Jaguar's third-party programming club.

Rebellion's Alien vs Predatar is a mammath, seven-level 3D spectocular, and guaranteed to bowl you over first time you see it. Sa what af the new consale?

What will its incredible technical spec and

Will Atari's new Jaguar succeed where the Lynx failed? Is technical superiority enough? And what's it like developing games for the machine? Phil Morse found the answers to these avestions and more when he visited two firms at the cutting edge of Jaguar development



We don't

think the

- Jason Kingsley, Rebellion

Jaguar is even

sweating with

AVP...

When taken along with its recommended retail price of a meagre £200, it is easy to see the potential; its games are better than the very best efforts on PCs costing £1,500 and upward, and anyone wha's seen, say, Doom on the PC will knaw that some of its best games are very impressive and would take something really special to better.

QUALITY GAMES

Perhaps mare vital to the success of the Jaguar than anything else is the number and quality of games produced for the machine. Nabady will buy even the best specified machine in the warld if the software support isn't there. The Japonese giants have got this right, and Atari must ensure that the Jaguar gets the same chance.

Twa firms currently developing saftware for the console are Rebellian and Attention to Detoil. Who better to tell us what it is like to program and what its potential is than the very people who have been, for the best port

tial mean for those developing software such as Alien vs Predatar far it? Rebellion's Jasan Kingsley:

paten-

"At the moment we're pushing the Jaguar as much as we can, but we think it can be pushed even further. We dan't think it's even sweating with AVP."

When the ST first came aut, people were amazed at the initial games which became available for it. But, as with every other platfarm, as the programmers began to get to knaw the machine a little better, ta work out the special tricks of the trade, shart-cuts and "undocumented" features (read: bugs) in its aperating system, the scape and quality af the saftware released gat steadily better and better, ta the point where we naw see complex games such as Zool canverted acrass to the ST with very little change fram the originals.

Far the Jaguor, all af this means a very exciting periad ahead. You dan't believe me? Well it's time to look a little mare clasely at what is invalved already in producing a game for the cansole. Remember, the example we're about to look at is one of the first games made for the machine - and in the

wards af the song, things can anly get better...

Obviausly before pragramming Alien vs Predatar, Rebellion had to sort out the anamalies af the machine, to get a grip on the best way to ga about doing things. As it is such a new console, however, they soon found that programming far it invalved a little mare patience than with tried-and-tested technalogy. Joson:

"When yau've gat a heta [test] machine, something gaes wrang in a pragram, you dan't know what ta blame – yaur code, their taals, their hardware – it's quite challenging but can be a majar pain."

Hawever, this dipping of feet into new waters has its rewards toa. To thraw

same specifications at you: With special pragramming techniques, Rebellion reckan they can squeeze 16 millian still or 65,000 maying 16-bit images anta the screen, in 65,000 calaurs alang with full stereo sound. Such power calls for extreme techniques of game development...

"Different processars can be used for

graphics, sound and gameplay with the Jaguar," says Jason. "Some companies have gat scared and decided nat to use them all!"

Nat Rebellion, thaugh. Their dedication to achieving the best results possible is abviaus from the start. Their raute to developing game characters is a case in hand, as highlighted in the box-aut.

The Jaguar may well be a machine poised at the beginning of a new age for computer software. With stereo, CDquality sound, true calaur graphics, and awesame raw processing power, the whale structure and scape of

any saftware hause develaping for the cansale will change. "There are going to be fewer peaple programming far the Jaguar," says Jasan, "and in much larger teams, People will specialise in graphics saund. But the value in the end praduct will be much better.

With a dedicated team making the saundtrack, another handling characterisations (already actors are being used in some games in the industry to "play" the characters in a game) and more teams far all the various aspects of game production, the fin-ished products will begin to look more like full-blawn films, with the difference being a

Rebellion Software

Farmed over a year ago by scandalously young creative director Jason Kingsley, Rebellian specialise in 3D work, making them an ideal firm to be developing for the Jaguar, with its awesome graphics handling potential.

As well as Jason, the compony's numbers are bolstered by Justin, Toby and Mike, who between them handle all programming, model-making, phatography and general game

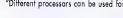
As well as warking an Alien vs Predator, which has token ten months to camplete,

As well as warking an Allert vs Predator, which has been the three mare projects in development.

One, Chequered Flag, looks to be the racing game which will wipe the floor with all others, and another four are currently awaiting canfirmation. And the firm are not exclusively laguar-bosed, either, with interests in PC game development, too.









Action FEATUR

full degree of user-interaction with the "script" as it unfalds. "It's becoming quite awesome," says Jasan. "We're being thrust into movie production – it's scary, but exciting. We're waiting far Spielberg to get in touch..." Sa will the Jaguar see off the competition? With the Sega and Nintendo systems beginning to show abvious signs of ageing, many see Commodare's new CD32 cansole, with its Amiga pedigree, as the nearest rival.

But, as Jason points out, people are parting ald, unimpressive software straight from the Amiga across to the CD32, leaving the user unimpressed and hammering nails into the machine's coffin at the same time.

rently limited to 2Mb only by the cast of prowhich cames packaged with the machine. duction. So with the prospect of "games" (if Attention To Detail advised Atari on some of we'll still be calling them that) in the the hardware specifications of the machine when it was being designed.
It's such tweaks, and the fact that Atari lisfuture containing eight times the information of something like Alien vs Predator, the potential to see aff everything bar the VHS videa recarder for realism is hard to aues-

About an haur's slightly

more-than-leisurely

drive away from

Rebellian, in a farm

barn just outside

tened to the advice from those in the know, that seem to suggest that both the degree of

Atari's commitment to the Jaguar as well as the technology itself are up to scratch. "Atari were very helpful, incar-

porating a couple of new

instructions at our request,"says director Chris Gibbs. It does indeed seem that the machine is well suited to the programming needs of those who have been charged with getting the games written and released - as well of thase of the people who play the games in the end

The fallow up to Cybermorph is a similarconcepted game, Battlemorph, in which ATD hope to incorporated all of the things they wanted to put into Cybermorph had they had the time!

Of course, ATD are being paid for developing Jaguar games and so from the business point of view, the degree of confidence held by the firm in Atari's commitment to the Jaguar is by the by.

CONFIDENT

But for the record, ATD's cautiausly sceptical opinian of Atari's degree of commit-ment changed markedly for the better after attending the Jaguar's launch, and

they are confident that the product at least has a good chance of being a runaway success.

As they are very much a technology-ariented firm, with their expertise lying in exploiting new hardware and pushing technical boundaries, they make a great cantrast to Rebellion.

Indeed, the bits that Rebellion toke so seriously sometimes even get formed out (no pun intended) af the building, leaving ATD to get an with the numbers!

"We have a guy called Dave Lawe who is tried and tested who daes all the samples and music for us," says Chris. But, na daubt in recognition of the fact that soft-

ware development in the future is going to require the large range of skills discussed earlier, they are currently in the pracess of setting up their awn in-house graphics department. I was bombarded

with ream after patential ream of technical infarmation at ATD - stuff like the fact that in Cybermorph all the landscapes are generated using fractals from a random seed (ta me and this means that the potential for variety in the landscapes is immense) - but perhaps more important is the level of co-operation

Atari's own design team were on-hand to test and advise on the levels in Cybermorph, for instance, and cantact between Atari and the firm is frequent.

This impression I gat - ane of Atari stay-



ing in tauch with their developers, and always striving to be helpful, was one which grew stronger as research far this article progressed.

Rebellion's Josan, for instance, had a breakfost meeting with Sam Tramiel (Atari's big man) just the marning before we came; and when Atori found out that we were doing this article, they briefed the campanies first - same may say paranaid behaviour, but taking this views belies the abviaus care and attention which Atari are bestowing upon making the Jaguar's launch o success.

Of course, if the Joguor bare a Sega ar Nintendo bodge, the world would be

We're waiting for Spielberg to get into touch!

- Jason Kingsley, Rebellion

paised far camplete damination within manths by the little wander box; with Atari the predictions have been markedly more cautiaus.

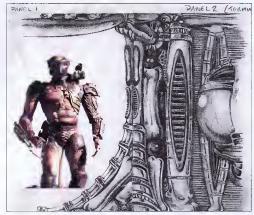
But with the ST range, Atari were, time and time again, occused of releasing a superior set of praducts, but falling short in the marketing and support departments ta the extent that their apathy, arguably, led the ST to never reach the kind of market shore it deserved. The Lynx - again, technically superior by murdered on its feet by the Japanese crew - is onother cose ta

Sa ta the Jaguar. Technically superiar, and fram the campany that invented the gomes cansale as we knaw it, it deserves to da extremely well,

This time, with the cammitment shawn by Atari ta the machine, it just might put Atari back in a warld-beating position in the morket console.



The fun-laving, happy-go-lucky Rebellion posse. From left to right: Mike Beaton, Stuart Wilson, Toby Harrison-Banfield, Justin Rae



Drawn in pencil onto tracing paper, this is an example of some of the detail that goes into a game such as Alien vs Predator; this is part of one of Toby's panels form the terminal section of the game

Attention to Detail

Fourteen-people strong and headed by Chris Gibbs, Attention To Detoil are far more openly technology-oriented than Rebellion, and so pravide an interesting contrast.

Their offices are the epitome of laid-bock, with real wooden beams criss-crossing the place, plants everywhere, and practically everyone presiding over a pile of their favourite CDs as well as the usual stotionery and computer stuff. There's even a sign pinned up on the notice board politely banning swear-

As well as software development, ATD are also active in the world of hardware and design, and in coin-op development, and even advised Atari on last-minute tweaks to the Jaguar's design, getting things altered. Now, for instance, it is possible to detail shading on objects more easily as you move towards and away from them (a device used to great effect by Rebellion in Alien vs Predator).

You make me feel so real

Rebellion's opproach to 3D sprites is a great example of their cammitment to realism. They stort by ditching all things silicon and electronic, and making detoiled, praper 3D models of the characters. These may take an exceedingly large amount of time and effort to complete. Justin:

"Zombie took about three days, made out of jointed, snap-together kits. To these are

added plaster, tea-bogs – anything to hand that works."

Getting the models exactly right is poramount, because the next, innovative step is the key to achieving convincing sprites on screen.

On ortiving of Rebellion we were curious to see a photographic bockdrop, camera and lighting equipment set up alongside the usual assorted disarray of computer equipment. It turns out that the first stage of a character getting on-screen is its model having its photo-

By adjusting the characters ever so slightly and toking picture after picture, and with a lot of patience (and film), it is possible to create convincing character movements by scanning

the pictures thus obtained directly into a development computer. This results in an exceeding realistic character with equally realistic movements on the computer

In this way, the technology in the Jaguar is liberating for the programmer, as it allows the creativity of real-life modelling and movement to be incorporated into computer software in

a far more natural way, it is actually, believe it or not, time-saving too.

"It takes about half the time to scratch-build a model; than to draw in 24-bit." says Justin.

As and when you get a chance to look at a copy of Alien vs Predator, the best way to see the advances in realism that the use of such methods afford the programmer is to get to (or get someane who knows the game to get you to!) the room where the eggs, a la Alien, are situated.

Get nearer to them and they open menacingly, just like in the film. And all it took was a wad of latex, some skilful modelling and the ubiquitous 35mm camera. "There's no way the Amiga could cape with AVP!" Jason stotes, somewhat unnecessorily...

CTION

Get spaced out on this

mega-affordable board

Scan those allens. That Medikit

view any equipment you passess, for

There are many other details of the game which I cauld go inta, but to really

oppreciate it oll buy the game and see fai

This is a darn fine budget release, RPG

fan ar not (admittedly I wasn't ane befare I

played this). The graphics and music create

a great space/science fiction type atmas-

Gremlin have also released another set

TINA HACKETT

of missians to complete so the game should

VISION

AUDIO

DIFFICULTY

LASTABILITY

long rules to learn, and great graphics

Publisher > GBH Gold

Price ➤ £9.99

Size > 1/2 Meg

Developer ➤ Gremlin

Disks > 1

HD Install ➤ No

Clossic science tic-

tion RPG without the control, no tediously

and sound

lost you a fair while.

Isn't going to help you naw

game conversion

instance.

Choose your chapter please. Hmmm not the one that looks like Gary Glitter, that's for sure



ather facility the chapter

The fleet roams through the galoxy in the pursuit of the enemies of monkind. Task forces break away from it far individ-

rejoin when their missian is occamplished

ond you then take turns ta mave, fire or fight each other in hand to hand combat.

Paints are awarded far eliminoting oppanents and campleting the missians. Missians vary fram "Seek and destray" aliens have blocked carridors with

must clear o way of the ship.

the dice, sa even if you tounch a missile at on enemy of paint blank range it is still passible to miss which may prove a little

The game can be viewed fram a 2D view sa strotegy can be plonned (it is also possible ta scrall around to see the entire area) or a 3D isametric view ta enable yau to see a nice, grisly clase up af completely

abliterating your enemy.

A user-friendly ican system makes the game easy to contral and is the main way of moving your marine oround. Click on Scanner to reveal aliens or Equipment to

Aah, Gretchin attack. Let's hope those dice are on your side

ual missians ar compaigns, and

Ta start off you will need to choose which missian you want to try and occom: plish, and which chopter of marines you want (there ore three, the Blaad Angels, Imperial Fists and the Ultra Marines, sa up to three ployers can ploy!

The camputer plays the part of the aliens

rubble, so yau 🛊

through and destroy the dreadnaught (a fearsame war machine, developed by the alien followers of Choos) to "Purge and withdrow" - Intelligence reports that the olien vessel has three outer hull doors. Open an auter hull doar and withdraw from the vocuum that will spread to the rest

Success in cambat is decided by a roll of



K, being knawn os "Tino cutesy plotformer Hockett" for abviaus reasans, I was a tod daunted to say the least when canfranted with this budget science fiction RPG board canversian fram Gremlin.

"Whot?" I asked with rising harrar as my mind clouded over with images of greasy youths getting over excited in Games Warkshop, hideausly thick monuals, lots of camplicated rules, and tannes of mind boggling icons to control.

Well, five panic-stricken caffees later, I gathered up all my cauroge ond, ofter flicking through the manual, storted to play the gome. And how pleasontly surprised !

The story behind the game goes something like this...(dromotic vaice aver, star trek style please). Warp Space, the parollel



Veikes! It's a Soulsucker. sounds very painful







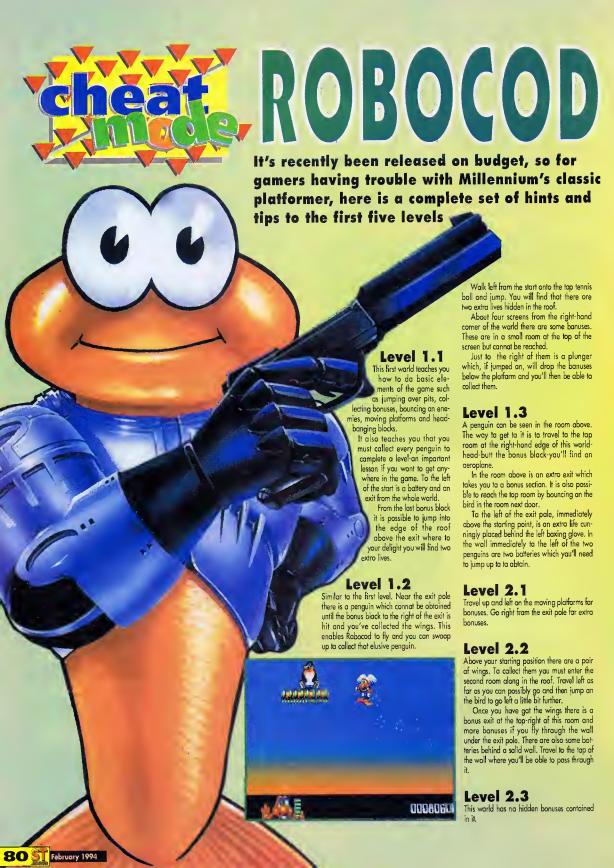
"And the Reds go marching on, on, an." and, err, beat each other up.

universe, the damain of Chaos, an ancient evil. War losting over five thausond years wracked monking. Aliens plundered. planet faught planet.

The Age of Strife as it was known, the greatest time of peril ever known to mon, braught farth a brave warriar. A brilliant saldier, he reclaimed the worlds last ta Chaas and created the mast pawerful fighting farce in the

Imperium, the space marines.
Right, dromatic bit aver, this is where you came in. The space marines ore arganised into selfcantained chapters, each with its awn fleet.

A chapter's fleet provides accommodation, training facilities, machine shaps, armauries, shuttle silas and every





Bonus World 1

Jump up and right to get past the poles, then jump into the cannon. After you have been fired, push up to gain extra height, then move left to land on the higher platform. Collect the banuses and leap into the second cannon to reach the exit pole.

If you wont extra bonuses (let's face it who doesn't!), jump around the roof above the exit pole and through a hidden hole in the upright. Finally, jump over the exit pole to obtain a hidden extra life.

Level 3.1

Travel olong the floor for the easy route. Towards the end of this world, loads of

bonuses be can seen on the plates above These ore there to tempt you into taking birds but this will end up in you losing a

life. Another exit can also be seen above the normal exit.

There are also some wings hidden among the many bonuses on the plates, so take on the birds because there is an extra battery up there anyway, then head for the bonus world exit. The normal exit will take you to level 3.2.

Level 3.2

There is a secret room above the first Bertie Bassett that you will face. Jump onto the vat of icing to drop into it. When you return you'll be back in the vat. There is another secret room in the roof just to the right of the icing, It's quite similar to the first one, but the chocolate barder is unwrapped so you can walk straight through it. This leads to the exit pole. All the other

routes are dead ends, but are worth exploring if you fancy collecting an extra life and bonuses.

Level 3.3

From the first moving platform you can see a hidden room. In this small room is a Penguin bar which can be jumped into to gain invulnerability. The first exit pole, placed at the bottom of the screen, is unfortunately a dummy! If you do go over by accident it will

return you to the start of this world.

Above the exit pole is an arrow pointing upwards. Jump up, above the arrow, to land on an invisible ele-

vator. This handy elevator will take you up to a new cavern and here you will find the way out.

Before you enter it though, jump up again where another invisible elevator will take you up to a hidden room and you'll find an extra life in there.

Level 3.4

Possibly one of the most difficult and frustrating levels in the game, so at this point try and gain the patience of a saint. At the battom of the level there is a pair of wings hid-



den in the right-hand edge of the right-hand cake. This will make your life slightly easier, but remember to keep an eye out for the birds at the top of the level.

Level 3.5

A bit of a sneaky one this level because all the exits restart this section. The intelligent

gamesplayer will notice a hole in the floor. Drop down the hole to enter the next level.

Level 3.6

The is perhaps one of the easiest levels to complete in Robocod and one of the most obvious. It's upside down which does confuse you at first, but it's easy once your eyes have adjusted themselves. Alternatively you could just turn your monitor upside down! One last thing is the fact that faur botteries are on top of the top sweet.

Level 4.1

Relatively simple this level; use the enemies to bounce up to the bonus blocks and the rest of the level is straightforward.

Level 4.2

The first scrolling section and it involves bouncing along a runaway train. There aren't many enemies to kill. To complete the level all you have to do is avoid being tropped.

Level 4.3

Quite a difficult level this one. Near the middle of the world are three red jumping adversaries. Above the middle one is a hole in the roof. Bounce on the middle jumper to get in the hole. This hole will take you to the second bonus level

Bonus World 2

Jump on the nasties to make your way up the screen. It's a difficult manoeuvre, but essential if you want to complete the level, so it's worth persevering with.

Luckily there is an abundance of extra lives and batteries at the top to make all your perseverance worthwhile. It's worth remembering that when you leave this level through the hole in the floor, you will go back to level 4.3 exactly where you left it.

Level 4.4

Quite complicated so keep alert! From the beginning of the level walk right and enter the small cavern. Walk through the righthand wall of this cavern for a bunch of bonuses.

Retrace your fishy steps and then start walking right. Collect the bells from the next

> cavern that you drop into. In the next cavern you will find two penguin bonuses which have been placed in the roof.

Walk past these into the left-hand wall for the bonus of an extra life. Continue along the tunnels until you reach the central junction. There are four tunnels leading off from this paint. The top left ane is where you came from.

The top right ane goes absolutely nowhere! Walk down the bottom right tunnel towards the wall, this will place you into a new room. The obvious exit is into the wall on the left, but this takes you back to the central junction.

Instead of that route it's possible to walk through the right-hand wall into a tunnel. There are some banuses dotted about and

you'll end up a little way bock from the central junction.

PENGUIN

There are two abjectives you must achieve from the central junction. First of all, take the bottom left tunnel to collect the penguins. Secandly, you have to run down the bottom right tunnel at top speed to break through the wall!

When you've gone down the bottom left tunnel, you will come to a long drop on the left-hand side of the screen with an elevator placed at the bottom. There are several rooms on the right of this lift-shaft, in each one there is a penguin.

When you've completed this little tosk. drop onto the elevator platform and, as you rise, jump into the first ledge in the wall and wait until the elevator has gone by. Next drop down the empty lift-shaft before the elevator comes back.

Walk right and you can either walk into the elevator wall to get back to the central junction or walk up the slopes and come running down to crash into the sealed bonus







Which way you choose doesn't matter. The top room is more difficult to get to, but has much better bonuses. When you've collected all your penguins run down the bottom right tunnel from central junction to crash through the wall.

Walk right to collect the umbrellas and drop into the bonus room. Collect all the bonuses you can, stand on the up arrows and extend to the exit pole.

Level 4.5

There are loads of curvy tunnels in this world which seem to serve no purpose except to allow a bit of fun by running around them. At the bottom of each tunnel there's a hole in the roof containing

The first two tunnels lead to Bonus Worlds and the next three contain coins, lives and batteries. To the right of the exit pole is an extra tunnel. To hit it run from half-way down the last slope.

If you manage to get into the exit tunnel, at the very right-hand end of the world are 200,000 points hidden in the

Level 4.6

Travel right from the start, up the incline and knock a train out of the bonus block. Jump on it to reach the tunnel placed at the top-left of the screen.

In here you can obtain a car and kill everything in the section. Also in the small room, there are two extra lives hidden in the higher side walls. At the top of the second slope from the starting point there is a room below you which you cannot enter.

Go to the bottom right of the section and jump on the plunger and this will open the door for you. Make sure you kill all the nasties with the car before entering because you'll lose it here otherwise.

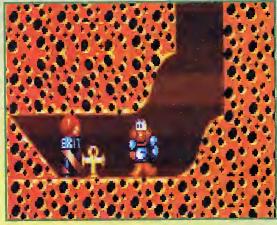
Level 5.1

This level is fairly straightforward. There are four exit poles at the end, numbered one to four from top to bottom. Pale one returns you to this world again. Poles two and three take you to world two. Pole four takes you to a bonus world.

About two screens from the start there are same bonus blocks hidden in the floor. Don't kill the second and third birds as there are some more bonus blocks above them. Hit the blocks to knock out two batteries which you'll need to be able to jump on the back of the birds to reach the other bonus blocks

Bonus World 3

You have a choice to go either left or



right from the start, but unfortunately you cannot do both. To the right there are three bonus blocks containing poison while to the left there are three good bonus blocks containing extra lives.

There are also two exit poles, both of which take you to Bonus World 4.

Bonus World 4

This stage appears identical to the last world. The good and bad bonus blocks have now been reversed. Make your way to the right and you'll find that the exit poles take you to Level 5.2.

Level 5.2

This basic section starts with domina caverns, progressing to playing cards and ending with yet more dominoes. From the start a penguin can be seen in each cavern and must be collected.

Towards the end, the caverns appear again. One contains a penguin, one contains absolutely nothing and the last one has the exit pole to take you to the next level.

In the empty cavern there's the only double-blank domino in the entire stage.

There's a secret exit in the blank domino which takes you to Bonus World Five. Above the cards towards the end of the section there is also an extra room. This is hard to enter and contains bonuses, a secret exit to Bonus World 5 and a bonus block containing a plane.

Bonus World 5

This bonus world comprises a minimaze containing a few domino spots and a number of invisible walls.

Level 5.3

There is nothing special about this level, all you have to do is complete it.

Level 5.4

Things have gone a bit dull because just like the level before there is nothing here except the exit to the next stage.

Level 5.5

Go past the exit pole at the right-hand edge of the map and off the end of the map to Bonus World Six.

Oo now that's cheatin'!



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lan Waugh on a new musician's bulletin board, and why a previous effort floundered. Plus all the latest from the ST music world

here has been a lot of talk in the music industry over recent years about communication with the customer. Believe it or not, the music companies do want to talk to you, they do want to tell you about their new products and they do want you to have software updates.

What they're not so keen on is tying up several man-hours every day answering phone calls and

mailing out Options Send Receive Macro Pause Cont Concel new product information and floppy disks. It's not cost effective for them but they do it because it's the only way to reach the customer.

One alternative to this Welcome to Sonic Boom, approach is to the Akai support BBS

use a BBS (bulletin board system). This has been tried in the past although not by any one company. There was a BBS called The Music Network which may or may not still be in existence, but never really took off.

It tried to pull together all the major music companies and offered a one-stop shop for musicians who could log on to the board, leave messages for the companies, download software and catch up on the news - which was much more up-to-date than a magazine can present it. Its failure, I believe, was due to two main reasons. First of all, it cost money, something most musos usually find in short supply. It didn't just have a subscription charge but an online charge, too. It certainly stopped me joining - my phone bill is far too high without that.

Secondly, not many musicians have modems. I'm sure many more have them now than had

> years ago but the number is still small. Shame. because comms has a lot to offer.

> As a musician. comms keeps you in touch with your fellow artists however far away they may

be. You can post messages in conference areas and ask for help with software or musical instruments.

You can download software updates - providing the suppliers put them there! - which may be bug fixes or program updates which companies would usually mail free to registered users.

Also, for a computer user, comms gives you access to an enormous range of PD and shareware programs. Many of these are music-related, especially for the ST, while others are utilities and

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You navigate your way around Sonic Boom with an easy-to-use single-key menu system

applications to make life with your computer a little easier.

The nice thing about comms is that everything is so quick. You can have an answer to a problem within a day or two and you can have the software now! Instant gratification.

The reason for this preamble is to do with an announcement which appeared in the last column's News section - Akai have set up a BBS called Sonic Boom. It's actually being run by a company called A L Digital which handle some tech support for Akai and are taking over distribution of the Akai sample libraries.

The BBS was in the process of being set up when I logged on and many areas were still under construction. They include the Akai

area, of course, one for Virtual S which will be about virtual reality, and one for the MCPS. There will also be a MUG called Lap of the Gods

The only major software area at the time was some 4,500 PC files but the sysop, Dominic Hawken, is looking for some good ST material and with any luck there will be something for you to download by the time you read this.

The BBS will have a Questions & Answers section, a Members Notice Board, supply product news, hold details of software updates and let you download samples directly into your computer.

But the most important thing is it's free! At least for the time being. Well done to Akai. Let's

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The Akai conference area promises lots of product news, technical support - and software!

The Kyle Appeal

No, it's not Kylie Minogue. The Kyle in question is musician Kyle Harris who has contracted multiple sclerosis. He's trying to raise money for the MS Society and is being sponsored to achieve various objectives. One is to get as many mentions in the press as he can!

Another is to collect autographed photos of celebrities in the music, sport or media business. Kyle released a cassette of his own music last year and Heavenly Blue Studios of Skelmersdale helped by taking gear to his house now that he's chair-bound.

Another project is to create a studio for similarly disabled people and to that end donations of suitable equipment would be appreciated. If any manufacturers, retailers or individuals think they can help in any way, contact Kyle on 0695 27709.

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hope the BBS is a success and encourages other companies to follow suit. I do know that a music area on another BBS is trying to get off the ground so more news if and when this happens. Meanwhile, if you know of any BBS with good support for musicians or, indeed, if you have discovered a good PD music program, drop me a line.

Sonic Boom is on 081-994 9119. Use the usual 8N1 setting in your comms software. It supports speeds up to 14000 band. A L Digital's voice number is 081-742

Spaced out

It seems that rarely a month goes by without something from Heavenly Music dropping on my desk. This latest disk is Holst's Planets Suite - very appropriate, don't you think? It contains seven files - one for each planet - plus the usual excellent HM documentation.

The original work was written by Holst between 1914 and 1917 and was composed for a very large orchestra. The programmer, Nick Ruggles, spent five and a half months poring over the score in order to reduce it to a size suitable for a GM instrument.

I did find that the files sounded slightly better when played on a Roland Sound Canvas than a Yamaha CBX-T3 which seemed to produce a rather

harder sound. Although all GM instruments sound approximately the same, there are differences which can show up if you customise a file to a particular instrument too much.

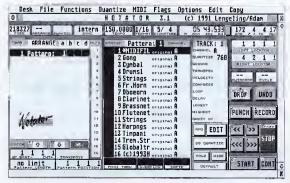
However, the Suite is something of a tour de force. You can see how much work has gone into its production when you examine the files. The velocities have been carefully adjusted to create the vast volume ranges in the work.

But if you're not in an investigative mood you can just sit back and listen. Very impressive indeed.

Holst's Planets Suite is £19.9S plus £1.S0 p&p from: Heavenly Music, 39 Garden Road, Jaywick Village, Clacton on Sea COIS 2RT. Tel: 02S5 434217.



One of the more quiet sections in Mars from Holst's Planets Suite



The programmer has convincingly condensed The Planets' massive orchestral score into a GM format

Music Update

- Got a Roland D50/550? Sounds OK are now distributing Sound Support's Classic Synthesizer Collection, a set of 84 sounds programmed to emulate old analogue synths using only analogue waveforms. It's available on an ST downloader disk and costs £28 plus £1 p&p. More from Sounds OK on 0276 22946.
- Rave. Not only a type of music but the name of a new ST sequencer. Well, it's not brand new, actually. It's an updated version of the Rave sequencer which was developed a couple of years ago by The Digital Muse who developed Virtuoso and Prodigy. The Muse have now had a name change to Muse Marketing and Rave now includes notation and event editing, support for Standard Midi Files and the ability to playback samples. It costs a very nominal £49.99. More from The Software Business on 0480 496497.
- How's your knowledge of Sys Ex? Fancy writing your own synth editor? Then CP-Gen is for you. You use different types of controller icons to transmit the various Midi messages and you arrange them on a control panel of your own design. There are three types of receiving devices which let you design your own Midi monitor to look at Midi activity in your system. We'll have a full review for you very soon but if you can't wait you can send £3 for a comprehensive demo pack which is refundable if you order the full program. CP-Gen costs £79.95 and is the first product from GRI Soft, who you can contact on 0494 443266.
- Yamaha, those bastions of PD support software, have commissioned the German Y-Not team to write an editor for the TG500. Take 500 has librarian and edit facilities for all sections of the module including voices, performances and multi-timbral setups. Unfortunately, it's not really compatible with the SY85. It handles certain aspects of the instrument but frequently reports a Midi Checksum Error, Still, that was not its purpose in life and TG500 users will be delighted. Contact Yamaha for your free copy: 0908 366700.
- Last April we reviewed a disk from Westec Services which set up a Roland MT32/CM-32/CM-64/D-110/10/20 with GM-type voices. The company have now added three other disks to their range. Get Dumps saves patch settings directly to your sequencer. There's a disk of Cubase Midi Manager files which let you control just about everything from within Cubase, and there's a Replacement Sounds disk which presents the 64 preset sounds with "improved" versions, All disks are £7.95 fully inclusive, More from Wester on 0621 88466.
- AudioCalc is a Professional Audio Calculator for the ST which performs five types of calculation frequently required in audio engineering: sound (delays, distances and frequencies), tape (various play time calculations), Music (tempo, note and echo sums), analogue (decibel conversions) and Digital (storage sizes, sample rates and so on). It looks like a very sophisticated piece of software. May have a closer look next month if I can get my maths head on. Meanwhile, it's yours for £39.95 from Hinton Instruments who can be reached on 0373 451927.
- The keyboard is far and away the most popular instrument used for Midi input although there are Midi version of guitars and many string and wind instruments. Now an enterprising fellow has designed a Midi Melodeon which was demonstrated at the Edinburgh Festival. However, it's still in the prototype stage while he seeks assistance from instrument manufacturers. For more info contact Steve Simpson on 031-555 2477.

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phano cable. The Vidi ST 12-bit (4,096 colours) digitlser con be used to produce calour or mono images or onimotions in olmost ony resolution and colour mode.

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System requirements: Atari ST, STE and Falcon, double sided disk drive, 1Mb minimum, 2Mb recomended

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omputers are a bit like cars; you tend to take them for granted but when they break down your whole daily routine gets badly upset. Everything suddenly has to be done the hard way.

Just like walking or waiting in bus queues seems to be so much harder now than it used to be before you first got a car, suffering the indignity of having to write letters manually or doing without your daily on-line fix seems hardly bearable.

For a computer journalist, hardware breakdown is even more than an inconvenience - it's a disaster of the same order as an engine failure is for a taxi driver.

I recently suffered not just one but two of these disasters when first my

Mega ST and then its external hard disk played dead. In the case of the Mega, it was nothing more serious than the power supply unit (easily though expensively replaced), but with the hard drive just about everything seemed to have gone wrong at the same time: the drive and the power supply.

TRICKY

By the time you read this, everything will hopefully be back to normal but the successive failures of computer and hard drive just when the deadline for this column was looming raised a number of tricky issues with regard to the Mac and PC emulators.

I was not, after all, completely computerless at any time since I am lucky enough to have an Atari TT030 sitting on my desk next to the Mega ST. So why not use that instead, it's a lot faster after all?

Now as far as PC emulation is concerned, the TT is definitely a no-go area, if only because it is physically impossible to install the

A brace of hardware disasters forced Günter Minnerup into some pretty desperate measures this month

bundled with a software PC emulator achieving unheard-of Norton speed ratings

A shame also for the PC-Ditto developers, I guess, who may have done better out of writing such a 68030 software emulator than their ill-fated PC-Ditto II hardware board which never worked reliably and finally caused the company's downfall.

I then tackled Spectre GCR, encouraged by the 68030-related options in the configuration menu and the optimistic talk in the docuemulation with just one single floppy disk drive: it's an extremely frustrating experience indeed and you begin to understand immediately why Apple have not sold floppyonly systems for a very long time.

For a start, floppy disk access under the Mac operating system is even slower than under TOS, but the real headaches are caused by the Mac's need for frequent access to the System files.

With most of the more substantial Macintosh applications, it is just about impossible to fit everything

When the chips hardware emulation cards. That didn't stop me, however, from making a desperate attempt to get the ancient PC-Ditto software emulator to work, with pre-

dictably unimpressive results.

Translating Intel into Motorola code "on the fly" and achieving a very high degree of PC compatibility in an ST environment was some achievement for the PC-Ditto team - even though it had to be paid for, of course, with very sluggish performance - but it is just too much to expect it to work on a 68030 processor run at 32MHz in a box that the developers of this emulator could never even had dreamed of at the time.

I even tried the shareware "ST emulator" Backward, but although this is concerned precisely with making stroppy old ST software run on a 68030, it is Falcon-specific and doesn't want to know about the TT at all.

A shame really, since I vaguely remember the good old days when Atari launched the TT with much fanfare as the new supercomputer of the decade, and how it would be

mentation of speed-of-light Mac emulation on the TT.

Since this was just before the Mega's hard drive gave up its ghost, and I knew that Spectre didn't like either the TT's built-in SCSI drive, I plugged in the hard disk on the ACSI (DMA) port. No luck. It hung every time I quit the configuration menu to enter Spectre proper.

And since the TT, despite its high performance, was Atari's worst marketing flop in recent history, Spectre's developer Dave Small never bothered to iron out the problems either.

BEAVERING

Rumour has it that he is now beavering away on a Falcon 030 upgrade and I retain some hope that this may also sort out the TT, but I'll believe it when I see it. Meanwhile, Falcon owners can at least get PC emulation - and very nicely too, with a colour VGA screen - by investing in Compo's FalconSpeed.

Then, as soon as the Mega's PSU was fixed, the hard disk conked out. Now I had a computer that would run the emulators but was reduced to floppy disks as a storage medium - 720k double density disks at that (memo: must upgrade to high density floppies one of these days). What is more, only one drive; most hard drive owners do not bother with second floppy drives, and I am no exception.

Now if you have never done this I would like you to try out Mac

you need (system files, fonts, program files, data, not to mention desk accessories and CDEVs) onto a double-density disk so my advice is to forget the whole idea of floppy-only Mac emulation unless you have two drives and saintly patience.

Matters are only marginally better with PC emulation. The DOS operating system is more manageable from a single floppy, and enough of it memory- resident to require only very occasional access to a system disk after boot-up.

But you are certainly back in the command prompt stone age again because Windows is, of course, totally out of the question - my normal, fairly modest, Windows setup demands over 6Mb of hard disk space!

It is after such trials, of course, that you suddenly begin to appreciate the merits of Atari's decision to install the entire TOS/GEM operating system and user interface in a ROM chip. Whatever the difficulties of distributing bug fixes and upgrades, it certainly makes for an eminently usable single-floppy

There is, of course, a way of at least slightly alleviating the difficulties of single-floppy-only operation, provided you have enough memory - a RAM disk. Even if you do have two floppies or even a (functioning) hard drive, RAM disks can be quite useful. The installation and benefits of RAM disks in the PC and Mac environments will be the subject of next month's Emulation

PC_DMENU.PRG Copyright 1987 Rvant-Garde Systems Disk Video Keyboard Colors Mouse

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ave All Changes Cancel All Changes

The venerable PC-Ditto software PC emulator: this configuration screen is about all that will show up on the TT

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Get into the net

he problem with the worldwide network of computer systems that is Internet is that it is so huge. It can be extremely daunting for newcomers to dip their toes into - especially if such toe-

dipping explorations have to be accomplished from one end of a long-distance telephone line.

Of course, there are online help facilities, assuming you know how to use them. There have even been Internet training courses which took place on Internet.

What was really needed was a good manual covering the basic techniques and ground rules - preferably in layman's terms! This fact was not lost on author Ed Krol, and was the inspiration for his excellent work The Whole Internet, A User's Guide & Catalog.

The book starts off assuming that the user has little or no knowledge of Internet - either what it is, or how it works. The first few chapters discuss the network and its history, also going into some detail on the courtesies and protocols of using such a farreaching system.

The rest of the book is divided into sections covering such black arts as finding software and then accomplishing the necessary file transfers, electronic mail, remote logins, reading news on the network, and a variety of other areas.

The style is chatty but informative, and there is a comprehensive index to help you navigate your way around some of the more complex issues. A useful pull-put Quick Reference Card bookmark is also provided, which short-lists

the most common commands. The Whole Internet can act both as a reference work and as a tutorial, allowing you to either read chapter by chapter or dip in to learn more about a particular function - although the later sections do tend to assume an understanding of the basic terminology, mainly that associated with the Unix system upon

André Willey takes a look at Ed Krol's comprehensive guide to the cyberspace world of Internet

THE WHOLE INTERNET



USER'S GUIDE & CATALOG



ED KROL

O'REILLY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

which so much of the Net depends.

The final section of the book deals with the resources available on Internet. One of the most frequently asked questions is not 'how do I use Internet?" but "what is available there?". In fact, the answer to the first question is often a lot simpler than the second.

There are literally thousands of information sources scattered among hundreds of thousands of sites around the world. It's rather like going into a library and asking the librarian "which books should I read?"

Krol devotes nearly 50 pages to a listing of some of the larger resources available on the network - from Agriculture to Zymurgy - taking in such diverse subjects as Finance, Medicine, Music, Oceanography, Religion, Science fiction, Sports, Travel and Weather Forecasting en route. Listings are given for the major usenet newsgroups in each

subject area, plus associated file storage (FTP) sites and even online research facilities which can be contacted via the Telnet system.

As importantly, the book also tells you the various ways to use Internet to acquire more about itself. The gopher system is probably the most common, and can be used to find and access resources without necessarily knowing the full routing complexities that the system has undertaken on your behalf.

Krol also goes on to cover WAIS and the World Wide Web – a hypertext-based system which allows you to quickly cross-reference textual information to find out more details on a variety of subjects.

In fact, the book itself is a case study in using Internet. In his introduction, Ed Krol tells us that he first "met" his editor via electronic mail, and the entire contents of this 376 page book were transferred between author and publisher on a regular basis via Internet.

At the time of completing the work, Krol had not actually met in person anyone from the publishing house.

It's only possible to scratch the surface of such a book in this short space, but this is an indispensable work for anyone contemplating serious use of Internet whether that be via a large business or university computer, or through an Atari ST and one of the UK service providers such as CIX or Demon Internet Services.

Title: The Whole Internet, User's Guide & Catalog Author: Ed Krol Publisher: O'Reilly & Associates, Inc. ISBN: 1-56592-025-2 Price: £18.95





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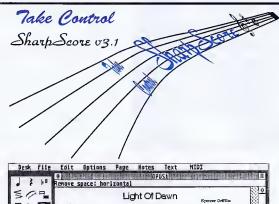
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For more details, a demonstration disk and example printouts, or to place an order, contact:

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Really good enough to eat

o, not the drop-down kind, rather the menus you find yourself staring at blankly in restaurants wondering whether you can afford that delicious sounding French concoction with the unproAndrew Wright starts a new series on practical document design. This month it's the turn of menus...



Choose the right font and graphic - this is PageStream's Artistik font

nounceable name, as well as a starter, or whether you should pretend not to be hungry...

It's surprising how many restaurants can cook up a wonderful meal but let themselves down badly with poorly presented written material such as adverts, wine lists and

I know of two upmarket places locally that use an old typewriter with scrawled corrections in biro not the best way to encourage window shopping customers to wander inside or those drinking in the bar to stay and dine. I don't suppose many of you will actually own restaurants but if you have an enterprising nature, local caterers present an opportunity to put your DTP talents to good use.

With a little application and the right approach, designing and producing menus can make you some money.

Once you have a selection of ten or 20 standard designs, put them together into a portfolio and show them to your prospective "clients" as you visit them.

You'll be surprised how many restaurants are looking for a low Club's Derwent is worth considering for Timeworks users. Small logos and relevant graphics

PageStream users while the ST

can be used artistically to liven up the menu page and borders can also be a good idea - try a border made up of bunches of grapes or wine glasses for a wine list and perhaps knives and forks, plates or something like candlesticks for the menu itself.

Size is important too. While A4 is perfectly acceptable, many restaurants prefer A3 sized or even larger menus that open a bit like newspapers and while you can create large menus by tiling your output, reproduction will probably require a large commercial photocopier. Other places - particularly Indian and Chinese takeaway restaurants - use A4 pages folded twice to create a small booklet.

Consider the use of tab leaders (lines of dots or dashes automatically inserted when you insert a tab) to ensure that the price and the product can be correctly linked.

This is particularly important in wine lists which tend to be quite densely packed with information. Don't forget all the other things that restaurant customers will need to know such as whether service and VAT are included.



A full page menu being designed using PageStream

cost, reliable service and if you've

got ready-made designs that need

a minimum of alteration, you can

do a quick, professional looking job.

In terms of actual design, the

typeface is very important. Script

typefaces tend to work best but

they can sacrifice legibility if used

a page, go for an old style or tran-

sitional serif typeface or perhaps

an italic instead. Garamond

If you're having to cram a lot on

at smaller point sizes.

Only ten months to Christmas

Monotype have launched a Christmas font pack but as they only told us about it in December, it was a little late to review it in time for Christmas!

However, the pack is such good value that it's well worth a quick look. For £49 you get IS PostScript Type I fonts but the interesting thing is that they're also very good for documents such as menus.

One is a picture font called Xmas Icons, but the other 14 are ideal for all sorts of occasions. Secondly there are two very pleasing serif fonts for body text -Ellington and Horley Old Style, each in Roman, italic, bold and bold italic.

Thirdly there are three script Commercial Script, Engravers Old English and French Script, and two display faces, Colonna and Falstaff Festival.

And finally there is Centaur Festive Italic, an exciting italic face with some interesting swash characters. For more information call Monotype on 0737 76S9S9.

from readers over the past couple of years. Yes, there is a chess piece font and yes, it's freely available!

The font in question is an Adobe original in PostScript Type I format suitable for use with PageStream or Didot or converted using Fonty for Calamus, and is freeware, being available on both CIX and Compuserve and probably one or two of the font-oriented PD libraries such as ST Club and

Cheq consists of all the black and white pieces with or without a diagonally shaded background. It is ideal for chess buffs who want to produce club magazines or pass around complex problems, not to mention those of you who can see the attraction of incorporating chess pieces into graphics designs and logos.





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tarting up a small business is unlikely to result in a spell behind bars unless you deliberately set out to deceive or deal in stolen or otherwise illegal commodities.

However, there are many pitfalls for the unwary, and failure to comply with requirements can result in major problems.

Learning what the law says about business and taking steps to comply will mean you are sufficiently well organised to meet not only every requirement of the law, but many of the requirements of successful business management too.

Where does the ST fit in to all this? It can take the tedium out of the work involved and help you stay on top of figures, correspondence and other tasks involved (see "The ST and the law").

One of the major questions any business must answer at the outset is: What legal form should the business take?

There are four main options:

- I. Sole trader
- 2. Partnership
- 3. Limited company
- 4. Co-operative

If you are starting up entirely on your own, the most likely form for your business is that of sole trader.

For businesses involving two or more people, the options are partnership, limited company or co-operative.

Sole traders can trade under their own name, or under a business name and despite the title, can employ staff.

The major disadvantage is that if business does not take off the way the business plan (remember that?) indicated, personal belongings can be seized by creditors or their

Making it legal

"How do I know what I'm doing is legal?" is a common question asked by people starting a business. Richard Williams brushes up on business law for the first of a new series

agents seeking recovery of money.

If you opt to use a business name rather than your own name, ownership of your business will not be immediately apparent to others. The law says you must take action to rectify this.

The name and address should appear on all invoices, orders, receipts, written demands for payments and business letters. It should also be displayed prominently at the place(s) where business is conducted, and you must divulge ownership of the business and its address on demand.

Successful sole trader businesses often change their status to limited company to take advantage of limited liability protection.

Similar statutory rules apply to a partnership, but there are major differences in other areas. For a start, you are not on your own if you have a partner, or partners, with equal or varying stakes in the business. If your partner builds up debts, you can be held totally responsible, as any of the partners can be pursued.

This applies whether or not you knew the debt was being incurred. Partners should have an agreement drawn up by solicitors to prevent problems arising from possible future break-up.

It is usually easier to draw money, as a direct loan, from a sole trader or partnership business. If you go into businesses either as a sole trader or a partnership, statutory benefits for the selfemployed are considerably less than for the employed.

LIABILITY

With limited liability companies, the directors are not personally liable for debts incurred by the company, apart from non-payment of National Insurance contributions. This limited liability factor is one of the major differences between trading as a sole trader or partnership, and as a company.

A company is a legal entity in its own right, whereas a sole trader or a partnership is all about individuals whose personal assets can be seized if debts arise.

There must be at least two shareholders in a company, and at least one of these must be a director. There must be a company secretary who could be your accountant, your solicitor, one of the directors or a shareholder.

Apart from the limited liability

status, which means directors and shareholders lose only their share capital if the company fails, advantages include being able to raise larger sums of money more easily, and the ease with which outside investors can be accommodated.

But there are disadvantages, too, like more expensive annual accounting charges, possibly greater overall taxation, public disclosure of some information and inability to offset losses against tax paid in previous years.

A workers' co-operative is owned by everyone who works for it. Decisions are made democratically. However, that does not prevent there being managers and supervisors, just like in any other

Co-operatives are still quite rare in Britain. Detailed information is available from: The National Federation of Worker's Cooperatives, Vassalli House, 20 Central Road, Leeds LSI 6DE, Tel: 0S32 461738.

Those in Scotland should contact: The Scottish Co-operative Development Committee, Tel: 041-S54 3797. In Wales, the information is available from: The Co-operative Development and Training Centre, Tel: 0222 SS49SS

The ST and the law

So how can your ST help you to stay on the right side of the law? In lots of ways. There could be lots of correspondence between you and Customs & Excise, the Tax Inspector, the Department of Social Security, pension and insurance companies and potentially dozens of others.

Be prepared - is that word processor that came with your new or second-hand ST really up to the challenge? Have you looked at Protext 6 yet (contact Arnor, 0733 68909), or one of its leading challengers, Redacteur 3.1S (contact The ST Club, 0602 410241)? The speed, power

and features may amaze you.

The curse of the small business is working out VAT (if you're registered) and income tax returns. But they are legal requirements and you will have to face them.

Would a 3D spreadsheet like Microdeal's 3D Calc (0726 68020) which features integrated editor, programming language, graphics and extended statistical functions - make the going easier? A well-modelled worksheet will literally save you hours of valuable time.

Keep track of all things financial, as and when they happen, with The Biz Plus. This is truly professional accounting software on a budget, and it's easy to use!

Details from Orpheus Systems (0424 436674). There's also the excellent Double Sentry - details from Graham R Hutcheon at Finansoft,

4S Connaught Street, London W2 2BB.

Whether limited company, sole trader or partnership, your business needs a logo that people will remember, which you can use on letterheads, statements, invoices and a whole host of other printed material.

And don't forget those notices you need to place in your premises to comply with the law. There's plenty of scope here for those great allrounders, Timeworks (contact Electric Distribution, 0480 496666), or Calamus (contact JCA

Europe, 0734 4S241S). starting and running a small business, meeting deadlines and keeping appointments is a full-time job in itself.

An organiser like Day By Day can help enormously. More info-rmation from Digita International (0398 270273).



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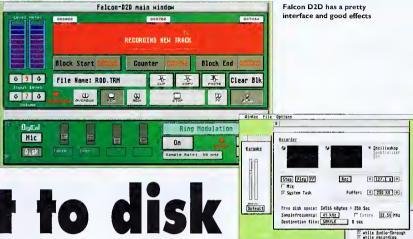
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midi and music � emulation � comms � dtp � business � falcon

irect-to-disk recording is the bee's knees as far as the music industry is concerned. Digital sound music stored as data on a hard disk - can be altered and edited far more easily and effectively than analogue recordings on tape.

The equipment used in studios might cost the earth but with the hardware built into the Falcon, absolutely anyone can do it!

As you're probably aware, the Falcon contains analogue-to-digital and digital-to-analogue converters, meaning you can feed in sound from any source, convert it to digi-



The best Karaoke of all - and registration is only £13!

Direct to dis

tal information and store it on disk

You can also convert it back to analogue sound and play it through headphones or speakers. In other words, you can use your Falcon very much like a tape recorder.

On the downside, good quality sound samples take up a lot of disk space - a four-minute stereo track recorded at 50kHz will take up around 45Mb on a hard drive. That doesn't leave a lot of room if you're using the internal 60 or 80Mb model.

If you're a real music junkie, the Midi Aspects pages are the place

to be but for those of you looking to get into direct-todisk recording and real time special effects just for fun, there

are some budget programs well worth looking at.

To set them up, all you need is a set of leads to connect your music source up to the Falcon's microphone socket.

Most off-the-shelf microphones will plug straight in and let you record your own voice, in either mono or stereo according to the type of microphone, but if you're using a CD player or cassette recorder you will need to connect the line out jack or phono sockets to the Falcon.

For best results you'll also need some active speakers (battery or mains-driven) plugged into the Falcon's headphone socket, rather

John Hetherington turns his Falcon into a hi-fi as he takes a look at some direct-to-disk recording programs

than the tinny internal speaker which you'll have to turn off via the control panel.

A word of warning here - don't connect speaker outputs from any device like a hi-fi to the Falcon's microphone inputs.

Highly amplified signals will almost certainly damage the

undoubtedly popular - Karaoke. Musicom isn't much to look at but it's cheap, cheerful and it works. An enhanced version, Musicom 2, is due for release soon which offers dozens of new features like sample editing.

FALCON D2D

Falcon D2D is part of the software bundle from Atari we looked at last month and works in much the same way as Musicom.

It offers six sampling rates from 8 to SOKHz and some clever special effects ranging from echo, flanger and chorus to several different reverb effects corresponding to various types of rooms and halls.

It won't run on an SM124 monitor and the sound samples are saved in yet another proprietary format, TRM.

It does have an interesting overdub option that lets you add new information on to an existing track provided it was recorded at 33KHz or less.

WINREC

The third budget direct-to-disk sampler is a shareware offering that earns itself the honourable accolade of Falcon PD of the

It is a fairly basic program that saves its own format files using one of eight sample rates, again from 8 to 49KHz, but the files can be packed to save space. The loss in quality is only small but higher sampling rates are really only practicable on a fast hard disk.

The two main advantages are the excellent Karaoke module and the supplied utility that lets you convert the proprietary sound samples into AVR files for use with other programs. What's more, Winrec will also use the LOD effects files from Falcon D2D, giving you an even wider range of special effects.



Compo's Musicom works very well and offers good value

machine and cost you a lot of money!

MUSICOM

Musicom was one of the first programs to arrive for the Falcon and it is still one of the best and easiest to use. It saves samples in its own 5MP format but you can choose from 8-bit mono or stereo samples, as well as 16 bit stereo, and one of eight different sampling rates from 8.2 to 49.2 kHz.

Special effects include delay, flanger, graphic equaliser, harmoniser and the dreaded - but

Karaoke comes home

You've seen it in the pubs and clubs - now why not try it on your Falcon? The Karaoke effect works on most popular vocal music and takes advantage of the stereophonic nature of the sound.

In most cases, particularly with solo artists, the vocals occur on both right and left channels so that the singer seems to be standing in the centre of the stage.

When the sound is being processed with the Karaoke effect on, the right and left channels are compared and anything common to both sides is removed.

The result is muted vocals rather than none at all but nonetheless it is great entertainment. Such a crude method has its disadvantages in that some instruments can be removed too but in general it works well for all kinds of tracks.



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The 'Link' from ICD includes an external SCSI host adaptor, allowing the Atari ST to connect to external SCSI devices e.g external hard disks, optical drives and CD-ROM drives which were originally lesigned for the Apple Mac, IBM PC etc. Just plug-in and no power supply is needed.

ICD 'Link'	
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The award winning scanner from Power Computing allows you to scan up to 400DPI in real-time greyscale, with an autoscan rate detect. The scanning software included allows you to edit and manipulate any image you scan.

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powerdrive

The award winning external disk drive which includes a virus blocker, built-in Blitz Turbo and is able to boot from drive B. This is the ultimate in external disk drives for the Atari ST computer.

£60

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Power Computing manufacture many disk drives for the Atari ST, all of which are made from high quality components.

PC720P (Inc. PSU)	£55
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(360K upgrade drive, needs case modification)	

PC720 OI (Official internal)..£45 (720K replacement drive)

drive-bcable

If you have an internal dtive that is not compatible with 'boot from drive B', this cable will solve your problem.

Drive-B Cable £9.95

blitzturbo

Back-up disks at lightning speeds, Blirz copies from the internal to the external drive and cleverly by-passes your ST's controller chip. In around 40 seconds you can back-up an ST disk, what's more you can now switch between your disk drive and Blitz Turbo without disconnecting your Blitz interface. Probably the best Atari disk copier on the marker. (1988 Copyright act applies)

Blitz Turbo£25

supra m o d e m s

Supra Modems come complete with English phone cable, RS232 serial cable, heavy duty PSU and comms software, send and receive fax's, 100% compatible with industry standard 'AT' command codes, free trial offer to various services and V42 bis data compression.

Supra	Fax	Modem+£119	
Supra	Fax	Modem 32BIS £249)

ring interruption

Use with Ultimate Ripper or SuperMon. Stop games or programs in their tracks, search for infinate lives and hack with the code. A press of a key and the program is restarted.

ling	Interruption	£1	5
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supermon

SuperMon comes with all the features of the 'Ultimate Cartridge' and more. Some of the features included with SuperMon are: Program Switcherallows two programs to be in the memory simultaneously and switched between at the touch of a key, Printer Spooler- allows files to be printed at the same time as other tasks, Comprehensive Debugger- disassemble programs and step through them, intercept OS calls, search memoty or find where a routine is called from automatically, Diagnostics Function- check the internal functioning of your ST disk analyser, custom format disks, read/wrire sectors, hide files, Utilities- the SuperMon also has many utility functions available, including reset proof RAM disk, mouse trap function, time display, screen snapshot and 50/60Hz display toggle.

Ultimate Cartridge£25	,
Including SuperMon£35	



The Atari RAM Board requires no soldering and plugs directly inside the ST using the latest capacity RAM chips. Full fitting instructions, are supplied. The ST RAM Board is available either as a 2MB or 4MB RAM expansion.

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IMB SIMM IOF STE23	1MB SIMM for STE	£35
512K RAM STFM£45	512K RAM STFM	£45



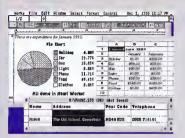
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New Software for a New Year



Business Applications



Atari Works

The comprehensive, up-to-date, integrated business package for any Atari 680x0 computer with 2Mb of memory and a hard disk. Atari Works contains a word processor, a spreadsheet and a database in one program, so that swapping between the applications is a piece of cake!

The word processor contains all the normal editing functions plus the drawing of lines & boxes, graphic import, spell checker and thesaurus, mail merge etc.

The spreadsheet is as powerful as many people will ever need - organise your data clearly and simply as text, percentage, fixed or floating-point or currency and then, using the 53 built-in functions, create interdependancies between your information. Then display the results graphically with pie charts, line graphs etc. and cut/paste these into the word processor!

The database is a joy to use; create as many fields as you need and position them on your form using the mouse. Once the data has been entered you can sort it, match records, find specific entries and produce reports, all quickly and simply. It is easy to import data from other databases and export data for use with the mail merge facility of the word processor.

All modules support the new SpeedoGDOS and are fully integrated - Atari Works is probably the most powerful integrated package yet seen on the Atari computers.



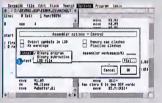
Papyrus

If you need a high-end word processor with many desktop publishing features then Papyrus is the new package for you.

The application is ideal for producing all types of professional-looking output, from one-page flyers to complete manuals. With extensive SpeedoGDOS support, paragraph styles, headers, footers, footnotes, reliable undo, automatic table of contents, flexible zoom, index creation, full margin control, freely adjustable paper format, letter micro-spacing, GEM vector import, text flow around objects, master pages, RTF support and more, Papyrus is the premier choice for all serious writers and designers.

001110

Programming



Remember that we've also updated our other programming languages for the Falcon. Devpac 3.10, Lattice C 5.60 and HiSoft BASIC 2.10 all contain extra libraries/include files for the Falcon, an extended debugger that works in all Falcon resolutions and much more. The Modern Atari System Software book (free with Lattice C 5.60) gives full Falcon developer documentation.

DevpacDSP

Another new programming package joins the HiSoft family of languages for the Atari 680x0 computers. DevpacDSP is a complete development system for the Motorola 56001 digital signal processor used in the Falcon030.

DevpacDSP consists of a fast \$5001 assembler, fully integrated with our friendly GEM editor, which supports macros, conditional assembly, include files and direct production of LOD files or Falcon binary plus an easy-to-use GEM-based debugger for disassembling and stepping through your code, modifying registers, setting breakpoints etc.



Video/Music







The best-value real-time video digitiser you can buy. VideoMaster is available for the ST/STe and, in a special enhanced true colour version, for the Falcon. VideoMaster RGB includes our new colour splitter, ColourMaster and produces amazing quality colour stills.



Clarity is our latest sound sampling system for the Falcon. Featuring an extensive sample editor, a complete drum sequencer and a powerful MIDI controller, Clarity is an ideal companion for all musicians. Includes extra hardware for CD (44.1KHz) and DAT (48KHz).



Utilities



HORLEKIN 3

This popular collection of utilities for all Atari computers gets another facelift. Harlekin 3 contains a multitude of enhancements including a multi-file editor, a new communications module with a scripting language, support for high density disks, a new Alarms module,

for use with the Manager, separate keyboard and font editors and much more. The whole package has a new look, with all modules in a window or a flying dialog so that they can be moved and the memory configuration is now even simpler. Upgrades from Harlekin 2 cost only £19.95.

All products on this page are either available now or by the end of January '94 - please call to confirm availability and pricing.

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